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Saipan Tribune

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'K-pop concert was a gift to the community' PAGE 3
Saturday is DEA National Prescription Take Back Day. PAGE 8

$1

No to pausing IPI receivership

» Mangloña: Satisfaction of judgments could terminate IPI receivership

By KIMBERLY. B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona Mangloña said no yesterday to Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's request to pause the IPI receivership, but she said she may reconsider if the casino firm can demonstrate that it has satisfied pending court judgments.

See IPI on Page 4

YOUTH CENTER REOPENING
Gov. Ralph DLG Torres speaks to the youth in attendance prior to the reopening of the Chalan Kanoa Youth Center yesterday at the Chalan Kanoa Center. This come four years after Super Typhoon Yutu shuttered the center.
LEIGH GASES

Story on Page 8

$20,000 to get 8 votes from Northern Islands

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Igitol

It will cost the Commonwealth Election Commission an estimated $20,000 to charter a boat that will bring a CEC team to the Northern Islands to get eight votes.

See $20K on Page 4

JKPL'S TRUNK OR TREAT
A great way for our community to come together

TOGETHER, WE CAN

By BETH DEMAPAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Beth Barcinas Demapan is the technical services librarian for the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library-CNMI State Library. She earned her bachelor's degree in Classics from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. Before working with JKPL, Demapan worked for the Northern Marianas Humanities Council's Motheread/Fatheread CNMI family literacy program where she continues to serve as program coordinator. As the Technical Services Librarian for JKPL, Demapan oversees the programs and services for the JKPL. During her spare time, she loves spending quality time with her family.

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library is the Marianas' information hub, preserving its cultural heritage and connecting people, libraries, and the government to the resources and tools they need to succeed. JKPL has been building a strong community since 1991 and continues to

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

See TOGETHER on Page 4

IPI found in default of land lease agreement

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Lands has notified Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC that it is in default of their lease agreement over the public lands in Garapan where IPI's resort and casino facilities sit for failing to pay rent and interest in the amount of $263,595 and for breaching the lease by failing to replenish the

See LEASE on Page 4

» Igisomar gives IPI 30 days to pay $263,595 in rent and interest, $250K to replenish security deposit, among other corrective actions

Igisomar

INSIDE

LOCAL
The robotics team from Pohnpei creates a splash at an international robotics contest in Switzerland.

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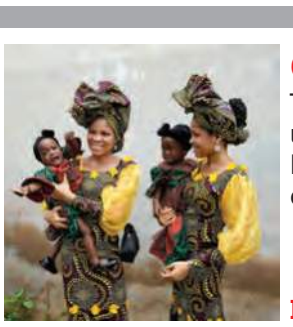

OFF THE WALL
Twins appear to be unusually abundant in Nigeria's southwestern city of Igbo-Ora.

PAGE 22

LIFE & STYLE
The rapper formerly known as Kanye West was escorted out of the Skechers headquarters.

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Local

HOFSCHNEIDER, VILLAGOMEZ AGREE

'No one can stop Torres from pushing Oct. 31 SOCA'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Torres

Hofschneider

Villagomez

Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) and House of Representatives Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) both agree that no one can stop Gov. Ralph DLG Torres from delivering his State of the Commonwealth Address at the Kensington Hotel Saipan on Oct. 31.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune* Wednesday, Hofschneider said it's Torres prerogative whether to push with his plan to address the community about the state of the Commonwealth at Kensington on Oct. 31.

"It's unfortunate that it's not before a legislative process but he has also a responsibility to allow the people to understand what's happening in the community, where we at," Hofschneider said.

He encouraged those who have been invited to attend, and other members in the community to watch it in all available social media platforms.

Villagomez echoed Hofscheider Wednesday, saying, "There is nothing stopping the governor from doing his address."

Villagomez said he has not decided yet if he is going to attend.

Both the Senate and House have adopted separate resolutions to call for a joint session of the Legislature to receive his SOCA.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

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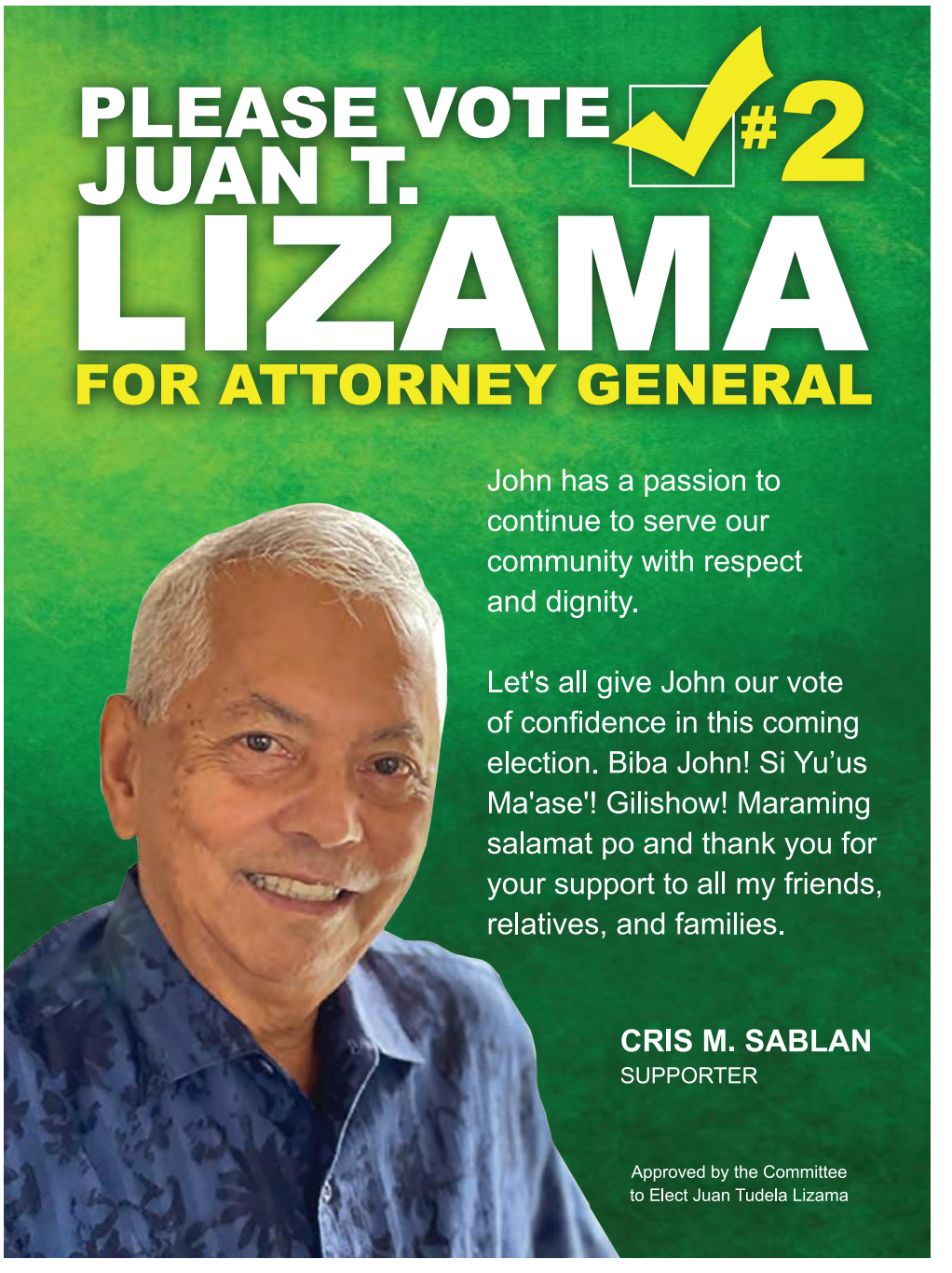
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CRIS M. SABLAN
SUPPORTER
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‘K-pop concert was a gift to the community’

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Organizers of the cancelled K-pop concert that was supposed to take place today and tomorrow apologized to the CNMI community yesterday, saying the concert was supposed to be a gift and a gesture of thanks to the community.

In a press briefing yesterday at the Saipan Mayor’s Office conference room, the planned “2022 Saipan Tourism Fanival,” which was supposed to be a free K-pop concert was intended as a gesture of thanks by Hong Kyun Kim, who is the president of P&A Corp. and a businessman of 25 years on Saipan.

Speaking through a translator and through Ho Joon “Jonathan” Joo, Kim said he wanted to have this concert because “I appreciate Saipan for my life. Saipan is my second hometown. I’m a businessman...I want to return to the community because of things I received from this community.”

He said he feels sorry for the cancellation of the concert, but “Saipan is my second hometown and I want to continuously live here with my family and I want to work together with the local people.”

When asked what the mayor’s office role was in the event, Apatang clarified that his office’s role in the event was just logistics. “We’re here helping with logistics. When they came and asked for help, we did that, kind of guiding them through...but we did not receive any money from anybody...because the way the [Customs and Border Protection] was asking was like we’re getting paid. But we don’t do that here in this office. Coordinating the group from Korea is P&A– that’s their responsibility.”

He added that it was a free concert provided by Kim and the P&A group. “They’re not paying anybody to do it; they put it on the newspaper, it’s free for the community,” Apatang added.

When the 17 persons who were supposed to perform at the concert arrived on Wednesday, CBP did not allow the group to leave the airport due to not having the proper work visas. The day before, on Tuesday, six members of the stage crew arrived on tourist visas and were allowed to leave the airport.

When the organizers were asked whether or not they knew the performers had to get work visas, they said they were not aware of that. The organizers said the CBP previously allowed Korean citizens to enter, but this time the performers were not.

“We had no idea that the performers had to secure a [work] visa before they come here. Tourists have been coming here left and right from Korea, and I thought they can come in and visit the CNMI,” Apatang said.

“This was the first time that they’re going to perform here. …Now the way this group was treated...is so bad. Right now, they’re still in the departure room– and they’ve been there for [one] day... just imagine that treatment. I don’t think it’s right.”

He added, “People have been asking, are we getting paid or not? We’re not getting any money out of these people, not the mayor’s office. We’re just helping with the logistics. Mr. Kim of the P&A is the one who coordinated [with his] good heart.”

It was said that along with some South Korean agencies, Kim paid some of the expenses for the event, along with the South Korean government and other South Korean sponsors, but that the local CNMI government paid no expense.

When asked whether the artists were paid to perform here, the organizers said they were not.

Apatang added that “maybe [CBP] thought the performers are getting paid to come in and they have to probably declare whatever we’re going to get—but it’s free. Mr. Kim, from the goodness of his heart, he’s always working with us with the student exchange program.”

When asked if the mayor had authority to request a waiver with CBP to allow the performance to continue because it was a nonprofit event, Apatang said it was too late as the performers were already awaiting their flight home. The group was scheduled to leave yesterday at 4pm.

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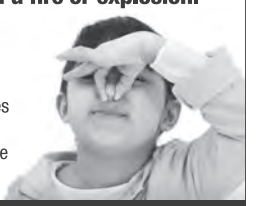
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Eli D. Cabrera, Administrator
Richard V. Salas, Director, DCRM

PUBLIC NOTICE

From the COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM of the DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

DATE: October 28, 2022

NOTICE: The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) is currently reviewing a federal consistency determination from the National Ocean Service (NOS) regarding National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regarding a catch limit of 2,000 metric tons (t) of longline-caught bigeye tuna per US Pacific territory, including the CNMI, for 2023. These catch limits, allocations, and accountability measures are identical to those specified for 2020-2022. More information about the proposed activity can be accessed via the DCRM website at: https://dcrm.gov.mp/wp-content/uploads/crm/2022-10-17-CZM-CNMI-Proposed-2023-Territorial-BET-Limits-0648-XC461.pdf

Federal consistency is a provision of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) that requires federal actions that affect the coastal zone to be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of a state’s federally approved coastal management program (CMP).

Comments on whether the project is consistent with the enforceable policies of the CNMI’s CMP can be submitted to the Division of Coastal Resources Management at fedcon@dcrm.gov.mp.

Public notices are published for compliance with 15 CFR § 930.42. State agencies are not required to provide public notice of the receipt of a negative determination or the resolution of an objection to a negative determination, unless a federal agency submits a consistency determination pursuant to 15 CFR § 930.34. DCRM is soliciting public comments for fifteen (15) days, starting on October 28, 2022 and ending on November, 12 2022. We welcome your feedback and thank you for your consideration.

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‘No tricks, just treats’ today at NMI Museum

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

The Rotary Club of Saipan will host its second annual “Halloween Night at the Museum, No Tricks, Just Treats” event at the NMI Museum tonight from 5:30pm to 10:30pm.

The NMI Museum and the Rotary are collaborating to put two events together in one night: the museum’s Fiesta Fridays and the Halloween event, said NMI Museum director Daniel Aquino.

According to Rotarian Joann Aquino, there will be a program of events throughout the night, along with a costume contest and cash prizes for the best costumes.

The costume contest categories are: toddlers (ages 1 to 2 years old), preschool (3 to 5 years old), elementary (6 to 10 years old), and middle school (11 to 13 years old).

In addition, there will be over 2,000 free goodie bags while supplies last, which will be passed out in collaboration with the TSL Foundation. Free popcorn will be distributed by DM Sablan Holdings.

The program of entertainment are as follows: 5:30pm to 6pm, Music Dave Electronics; 6:05pm to 6:35pm, Da Kine; 6:40pm to 7:05pm, Joan Oliveros; 7:10pm to 7:35pm, Santiago Productions; 7:40pm to 8:05pm, Tahiti Nui; 8:10 to 8:35, Petlas; 8:40pm to 9:05pm, Teivi Maori; 9:10pm to 9:35pm, Refaluwasch Warriors; and 9:40pm to 10:05pm, Ray Peter.

Rotarian Marvin Deleon Guerrero will also provide music entertainment.

The first Halloween event last year drew hundreds of people and was a success as people started coming in even prior to the event’s scheduled time.

JIL Church motorcade this Saturday as it celebrates 25th anniversary in November

The Jesus Is Lord Church in San Vicente will be celebrating its 25th anniversary on Nov. 13 at the Saipan World Resort and will conduct a motorcade on Saturday, Oct. 30.

The motorcade will serve as a prayer rally around the island and will start at 1pm from the Saipan International Airport ground (Area 3-4). It is also an invitation to the Saipan community to their upcoming anniversary event.

The church’s anniversary theme is “Victory in Christ Jesus,” according to JIL Saipan pastor Melissa Panuringan.

The anniversary event from 3pm at the Taga Hall will have guest speaker Pastor Renato “Bobot” Bernardo, executive director of the Jesus is Lord Church Worldwide.

The church services schedule is every Sunday at 7:30am, 9:45am, and 6pm; every Tuesday prayer meeting at 7pm, and every Wednesday, Night of Power, at 7pm.

Contact them at (670)- 285-8053, check out their Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/JesusIsLordSaipan or visit their website at https://jilworldwide.org/

The church’s morning service grand opening was on May 4, 1997, led by pastor Rufo Lane Armia, founder of the church and in July 1997, the evening service was born. ***(Leigh Gases)***

LEASE

From Page 1

$250,000 security deposit.

In a letter to IPI president Lingli Cai dated Oct. 18, 2022, DPL Secretary Sixto K. Igisomar said they are giving notice that IPI is in breach of other terms of the lease and providing IPI with an opportunity to cure.

Failure to comply with the notice will result in the immediate termination of the land lease, Igisomar said.

Cai or IPI was given 30 days from the date of the letter to cure the violations by completing corrective actions.

Igisomar’s letter to IPI, among other things, were discussed during the Commonwealth Casino Commission board’s monthly meeting at the Springs Plaza Building in Gualo Rai yesterday. Board chair Edward C. DeLeon Guerrero said he believes that he and one of the commissioners should meet to look into this matter and see the next step that need to be taken.

He said he believes that the Office of the Attorney General is also assisting DPL because this affects IPI’s gaming operation if DPL decide to take action.

The chairman said they should meet with Igisomar to discuss the issue.

In his Oct. 18, 2022, letter to Cai, Igisomar said that among the corrective actions that IPI can make is to pay all outstanding rent and interest in the amount of $263,595, and to pay $250,000 to replenish the required security deposit.

He said IPI should submit a copy of IPI’s valid fire and damage insurance policy, with extended coverage endorsements, jointly in the names of IPI and DPL, covering the full insurable value of all permanent improvements on the premises.

The DPL secretary said IPI should submit, among other things, the required financial statement for the year ending 2021 audited by public accountants certified and licensed in the U.S.

He said payment of rent in the amount of $250,000 was due April 29, 2022, for the period beginning April 29, 2022 through April 28, 2023.

Igisomar said the lessee failed to pay this rent within 30 days after the due date and that with interest, the total amount due by IPI at this time is $263,595.

Pursuant to the lease agreement, IPI agreed to pay rent annually in advance.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

IPI

From Page 1

In a 16-page order that denied IPI and its creditors’ stipulation, or agreement, to pause the receivership, Mangloña said the court denies another stay on the receivership until such time that IPI can demonstrate that it has satisfied all pending judgments with her court.

In fact, if IPI is able to demonstrate that it has satisfied all pending judgments, Mangloña said the court may reconsider its decision and may even consider termination of the receivership.

“When IPI can demonstrate that it has satisfied the pending judgments in this court, the court may reconsider whether to reinstate the stay or even terminate the limited receivership. Until such time, the court will not stay the receivership on the eve before the first auction is to take place when there are still outstanding judgment creditors against IPI. The receiver’s sale is not a final sale unless approved by the court. Once IPI can demonstrate that it has satisfied judgments for the current judgment creditors in this court, IPI may renew its motion to stay and retain its assets,” she said.

The receivership is currently being carried out by the court-appointed receiver, Clear Management Ltd.

Mangloña explained that one of the reasons for her denial is because of IPI’s history of delayed payments or even non-payments.

“First, IPI has had an extensive history of delayed or non-payment to a multitude of creditors. This court has expended considerable resources and time giving IPI an opportunity to make amends with those creditors. Yet, despite numerous status conferences, orders to show cause, orders in aid of judgment—IPI’s promises have often been empty or delayed,” she said.

Another reason, the court noted, is because even though IPI can demonstrate that it has satisfied pending judgments of those who have assumed the receivership after U.S.A Fanter, including the Wang plaintiffs, the Genc plaintiffs, and N15 Architecture, there are still other creditors who have yet to be paid in and outside of the District Court.

“While some creditors have had the benefit of competent counsel, at least one creditor has operated pro se and now has his claims compromised based on the promise of yet another delay in payment. …Numerous creditors have come forward in this receivership to seek relief from IPI—both from this court and the Commonwealth Superior Court at the hearing on this stipulation, IPI was unable to report to the court the status of the various creditors that entered their appearances in this case through counsel. The receiver’s counsel, who also has other creditors as clients, reported that none of his three clients were paid a penny. Simply because some creditors, interestingly including creditors not from this court, were able to reach more expeditious resolution, it does not mean that other creditors should continue languishing while payments are uncertain. The equities do not tilt in favor of defendant IPI,” she said.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, as of last Tuesday, Clear Management, through lawyer Michael White, has sought the court’s confirmation of sales made following the closing of the Oct. 7 IPI gaming equipment auction.

The first auction netted a total of over $400,000.

$20K

From Page 1

This was learned from CEC executive director Kayla S. Igitol, who told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview Tuesday that they are looking at leaving Saipan for the Northern Islands aboard a charter boat either on Nov. 4 or 5.

Igitol said the team will include one CEC staff, one Office of the Public Auditor staff, two election poll workers, two poll supervisors, and one police officer.

“They will [go to] the furthest island [first] and work their way back,” she said.

She said they will get four votes from Alamagan and four from Agrihan.

Igitol said they could not find a helicopter that would bring them to the Northern Islands, hence the decision to charter a boat.

She said that spending thousands of dollars to get fewer than 10 votes from the Northern Islands has never been an issue because “there is no price tag on democracy.”

“Every voter has the right to vote, whether it costs $100 or $20,000,” Igitol said.

As of Tuesday, 137 registered voters from the Northern Islands have already voted and there are 59, including the eight, who have yet to vote. Most NI voters currently live on Saipan.

Jocelyn Frances Aldan Kapileo and Valentino Nicky Taisacan are gunning for Northern Islands mayor. Kapileo is running as an independent, while Taisacan is seeking the post under the Republican Party.

TOGETHER

From Page 1

create programs, services, and events that promote literacy in the Marianas.

The annual Trunk or Treat community event is a great example of how JKPL has built collaborative partnerships with local stakeholders. At this event, organizations come together to network and provide positive outreach services that give back to our community. They share treats and goodies while advertising some of their products and services. While it’s not common practice in the Marianas to go door-to-door to trick-or-treat, this event is a positive, family-friendly alternative that brings much joy to the children.

We welcome the community to participate in selecting the winner of the People’s Choice Award for the Best Decorated Trunk Contest. This year we are excited to announce that many of our community partners and organizations will be decorating their trunks this Halloween. The winner will receive a cash prize sponsored by Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library.

We didn’t expect the Trunk or Treat event to grow into something that our community looks forward to each year. Over the years, we’ve welcomed 3,000 to 5,000 families per event. During the pandemic, we pivoted and turned the Trunk or Treat into a Book-A-Treat, which was indoor trick or treating spread out over three days. We thank our many families for continuing to patronize the library and visiting us during Halloween. These events are for you, and we hope you continue to visit your library not just during this festive occasion but throughout the year. There are many free resources that we encourage you to utilize year-round.

The library is able to carry out this event every year by actively partnering and reaching out to many community members to provide sponsorship, donations, and volunteers. This event could not have been possible without all of our partners’ involvement.

Preparing for the event by beautifying the library

In preparation for this event, we spruced up the library by painting the parking lot earlier this year, thanks in large part to the Governor’s Council of Economic Advisors. We participated in the GCEA’s Adopt-a-Median Program, which supports community-wide beautification efforts that foster community pride. We are grateful for these beautification efforts as our parking lot has been restored from years of wear and tear. We thank our JKPL staff, family, Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, and the amazing staff of Pacifica Insurance Underwriters who dedicated their time and efforts to clean and paint the two medians in front of the library and PIU.

The project also served as a great opportunity for Team JKPL to build teamwork amongst our staff and participate in healthy outdoor activities. We were all proud to have taken care of our environment, beautified the library for its patrons, and maintained the infrastructure of the building.

We’d like to thank our sponsors and donors who are supporting this event. To see a full list of all our Trunk or Treat partners, sponsors, and donors, you can visit cnmieconomy.com or check out our Joeten-Kiyu Public Library website www.cnmilib.org, Facebook, and Instagram page.

We wish you a safe, fun-filled Halloween!

For more information about GCEA’s programs, visit cnmieconomy.com. Engage with the Council on Facebook and Instagram (@cnmigov.economy) or contact them at gceacnmi@gmail.com.

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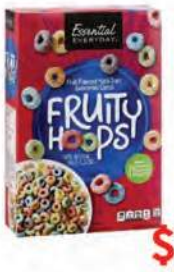
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Saturday is DEA National Prescription Take Back Day

Three health sites in the CNMI will be participating in the DEA National Prescription Drug Take Back Day this Saturday, Saturday, Oct. 29, 2022, from 10am to 2pm, during which they will accept unused prescription drugs for disposal.

The three sites in the CNMI that are taking part in this Drug Enforcement Administration-led activity are the Outpatient Pharmacy at the Commonwealth Health Center on Saipan, the Rota Health Center in Songsong Village, Rota, and the THC Pharmacy of the Tinian Health Center. They will be joining thousands of collection sites around the country, including in Guam, that offers free and anonymous disposal of unneeded medications at thousands of local drop-off locations nationwide.

The DEA will not be accepting new or used needles and syringes, nor will the DEA collect vape pens or e-cigarette devices.

Working in close partnership with local law enforcement, Take Back Day has removed more than 7,600 tons of medication from circulation since its inception.

The following sites in Guam are designated to receive unused prescription drugs: Agana Shopping Center (Triangle Court); Andersen Air Force Base Exchange (Main Base Exchange); Dededo Senior Center; Guam Premier Outlet; and Naval Base Guam – Navy Exchange (Food Court).

This event facilitates DEA's ongoing efforts to combat the rise of overdoses plaguing the United States. ***(PR)***

Chalan Kanoa Youth Center reopens

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gase@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Four years after Super Typhoon Yutu, the Chalan Kanoa Youth Center reopened yesterday to offer services not just for children but also to provide community activities for families.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres also pledged to provide the center with sports equipment such as basketballs, baseball, footballs, and volleyballs, and was met with cheers from the youth in attendance.

The center will open from Monday to Friday, 7:30am to 4:30pm.

Youth Affairs Office special assistant Ali Ogo said the center not only serves as a safe haven for tChalan Kanoa's children, "but also as a beacon of light to steer our youth into positive development and quality education, career readiness, help civic participation, use talent and leadership and general life skills to ensure any safe and beneficial manner."

The reopening of the center also means that the Youth Affairs Office under the Office of the Governor will now be able to offer community activities for families, Ogo said, while providing multiple opportunities, training, and assistance to the island's youth.

To the children in attendance, Torres said, "This is the reason why we do what we do—to make sure that our kids have a place that they can enjoy with each other, a memory of a lifetime. …We are here to make sure that they have their own memory that they can one day be proud of. …We're here just to make sure we give them those resources. …So to the people of Precinct 2, CK, you have a new, nice facility. Please keep it clean. And to all Youth Affairs Office staff, Mr. Eric Esteves, Keith Ada thank you for taking the initiative to help out." Esteves and Ada help clean and maintain the nearby basketball courts as private citizens.

Torres also urged the children not to post graffiti or damage the center's equipment.

Ogo is also inviting the community to the Youth Affairs Office's drive-thru trick-or-treat Halloween at the San Vicente Youth Center on Monday, Oct. 31, from 6pm to 10pm.

Others in attendance at the opening ceremony were Fr. Rey Rosal, Antonio Reyes, outreach coordinator of the Office of Youth Affairs, other Office of Youth Affairs faculty and staff, and children and parents.

Aside from the upcoming Halloween Trick or Treat, the Youth Affairs Office is also working on after school programs, 2022 Youth Summit, 2022 Christmas Village, 3 on 3 Basketball, and the 2022 Youth Concert.

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FROM RIDGE TO REEF

A Collection of Articles Written by the 2022 DCRM Summer Interns

Issue No. 1 of 6

BERGERS, BEACHES, AND BERMS

ANDREA ROBERTO DCRM SHORELINE MONITORING

In a 2014 article published by the Ghana Journal of Science and Technology, it was reported that the coastline area of Nkontompo was eroding at a rate of 2 meters per year. This erosion led to the eradication of approximately 117 buildings within the coastal community, as well as the diminishment of one third of its developed region (Olympio & Amos-Abanyie, 2014).

Despite being in a different ocean territory, the CNMI is in danger of the same threat. According to the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) 2018-2021 Shoreline Profile Monitoring Report, 18 of Saipan and Managaha beach transects are exhibiting signs of erosion.

As an intern under the DCRM Coastal Resources Planning Section, I conducted beach surveys and collected data the program uses to analyze risks and changes our coastal zones undergo. The data allows the program to aid coastal stakeholders in creating informed decisions. This data is also used to create a story map through ArcGis, an interactive tool that allows coastal planners to portray the physical characteristics of our shorelines for our community.

The main segments of the 2022 Shoreline Monitoring Story Map are images and "beach profiles" taken from surveys. Beach profiles are created using shoreline data (recorded using the Berger Level method) such as elevation, vegetation, weather, and tide. This data is inputted and analyzed using Microsoft Excel, and then used to curate a visual representation of a beach's shoreline. A typical beach profile portrays the following characteristics of a shoreline's anatomy: vegetation lines, wracklines, waterlines, moats/toes, drops, and berms. Beach profiles also include information about a shoreline throughout multiple years, allowing viewers to see changes and trends it went through over time.

Olympio, G. F. A., & Amos-Abanyie, S. (2014). *Effects of shoreline erosion on infrastructure development along the coastal belt of Ghana: Case of nkontompo community.* Journal of Science and Technology (Ghana), 33(3), 39. https://doi.org/10.4314/just.v33i3.5

EXPLORING SAIPAN'S TROPICAL FORESTS

JARREL SABLAN DFW WILDLIFE SECTION

This summer, I had the opportunity to participate in the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) Summer Internship Program under the Division of Fish and Wildlife's (DFW) Wildlife Section. The wildlife section works to conserve and manage our island's terrestrial resources through a variety of locally and federally funded projects. The majority of the federal funding comes from the Wildlife Restoration Program of the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Throughout my internship, I assisted in various projects in the Saipan Upland Mitigation Bank (SUMBA) under the guidance of Emilie Kohler, DFW Wildlife Biologist. The SUMBA provides a species reserve (protected area) for the federally and locally listed endangered Nightingale Reed-Warblers, or gåga karisu. Development that impacts the habitat of this species elsewhere can be mitigated through the purchase of credits to protect breeding pairs of birds in the protected area. Some of the projects I was involved in were vegetation surveys, land surveys, bird surveys, camera trapping, and Nightingale Reed-Warbler surveys. However, our main focus was the vegetation surveys.

The purpose of the vegetation survey was to determine the proportion of different habitats in the SUMBA for the Nightingale Reed-Warblers.

The survey area consists of 19 transects and a total of 89 stations. The tools needed for the survey include a GPS device, meter tape, DBH tape, compass, clinometer, orange/pink flagging, batteries, markers, pencils, backup paper survey, and a first aid kit.

We collect data on vegetation structure, and complexity within 10-meter x 10-meter plots centered around the transect station oriented, so corners are pointed to the North, East, South, and West cardinal directions and flagged with orange tape. In order to identify tree and shrub species, I was supported by reading materials such as the Common Flora and Fauna of the Marianas and the Trees and Shrubs of the Mariana Islands.

We then measure every tree and shrub using diameter at breast height (DBH) tape. A DBH tape determines if a tree or shrub is a stem - if it falls under a 5cm diameter. After every tree and shrub is identified and measured, we then calculate the percent slope using a clinometer and compass for the aspect. The last step is to record vegetation strata height (canopy, shrub, and herbaceous). Data collected will be analyzed to categorize the vegetation within the SUMBA, inaugurate habitat associations, and produce population values for the sampled bird species.

Overall, my experience with this internship was amazing. I've learned several things such as the ongoing wildlife conservation and management efforts. I highly recommend this internship to all nature lovers.

Vogt S. & Williams L, *Common Flora and Fauna of the Marianas; 2004.* Lynn R. & Rinehart A., *The Trees and Shrubs of the Mariana Islands,* 1992.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Learning loss is bad everywhere, and demands immediate action

It's no surprise that educational achievement suffered after two chaotic years of school closures during the COVID-19 pandemic. But it's still distressing to see the desolate picture of students' academics and ever-widening gap between low- and high-performing students revealed by the latest national proficiency test scores.

Math and reading scores declined among fourth- and eighth-grade students in most states, according to results from the National Assessment of Educational Progress released Sunday. Overall, the "Nation's Report Card," as this periodic report is known, showed such steep declines in test scores compared with previous years that education experts warn that we're on the verge of losing an entire generation to substantial learning loss.

The results are hardly surprising given the unprecedented disruption in schooling caused by the pandemic, but they offer concrete proof that K-12 students need more focused attention and resources in the form of tutoring or extended instruction time, depending on specific circumstances. More than just a snapshot in time of how students are faring, the results offer clues for educators, policymakers and parents of how we can better help students. The larger declines in math could mean that students need more support, perhaps one-on-one tutoring or more teacher instruction.

U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona said the poor performance isn't just the result of school closures during the pandemic but also a reflection of "decades of underinvestment in our students."

Nearly 500,000 fourth- and eighth-grade students nationwide took the tests between January and March. The report card is helpful because it contains data for students in all 50 states and 26 urban districts, including Los Angeles and San Diego, which educators can use to glean information about best practices in areas that showed improvement from 2019, when tests were last administered.

For example, the declines at Los Angeles Unified weren't as steep from 2019 to 2022 as had been feared, considering the many challenges—including high poverty rates, a dearth of affordable housing and lack of reliable, affordable Wi-Fi—faced by students in the second-largest school district in the country.

Nevertheless, LAUSD eighth-graders improved their reading scores by 9 points from 2019 to 2022, a notable gain in a sea of losses. LAUSD Supt. Alberto Carvalho credited many factors for this progress, including the district's quick pivot to virtual learning, targeted tutoring of high-need students and mental health support for students.

Carvalho called himself a data-driven administrator when he took over leadership of the district earlier this year.

See LEARNING on Next Page

Who knows how we change the clocks this season?
PANDEMIC HURT MATH, READING SKILLS
We Fall BACK three grade levels...
MARGULIES

No one really has any clue about what's going to happen in the midterms

By KURT BARDELLA
Los Angeles Times

Kurt Bardella is contributing writer to Opinion. He is Democr atic strategist and a f ormer senior adviser f or Republicans on t he House Oversight Committee. @KurtBardella

As we head into the final stretch of the midterm elections, the national political media have returned to their favorite pastime: fixating on polls.

For the better part of a year, voters have been inundated with a familiar media chorus: Republicans are poised to retake control of Congress. The rationale for bolstering the "red wave" narrative is a combination of historical precedence—the party in power almost always loses seats in the first term of a presidency—and reliance on polling. But given what we've seen in the last six years, conventional political wisdom, which didn't predict an insurrection, is quite likely to be upended.

The same thing can be said for polling, which has been off the mark cycle after cycle. Donald Trump wasn't supposed to win in 2016. Republicans weren't supposed to gain seats in 2020. A Republican candidate for governor wasn't supposed to win in Virginia, a state Biden won by 10 points. Alaska hasn't elected a Democrat to Congress in 50 years, yet it did this year.

Yet the media are still promoting narratives about the midterm elections that are based on past elections. At best, it's lazy; at worst, it's irresponsible.

By failing to acknowledge the shortcomings of polling, the media are giving the public a false or skewed representation of how competitive this election may be and running the risk of making those predictions a self-fulfilled prophecy. If voters take the prognosticating at face value, they would believe the election is already determined, which could hinder turnout. It's the same reason people change the channel during a blowout game; who wants to stick around for that?

Now imagine election night 2022, if Democrats hold both the House and Senate. The collective media apparatus will express shock and surprise. They will herald the results as unprecedented and defying all expectations. But the truth will be that the media got it wrong—again. And yet the narrative embedded in so much of political coverage is unlikely to change. The same storyline will probably be trotted out in 2024. That's the inherent danger of the herd D.C. Beltway mentality that dominates conventional wisdom group-think.

I expect that if this scenario comes to pass, we'll see more stories with headlines such as this from Politico, "Pollsters: 'Impossible' to say why 2020 polls were wrong" or studies such as this one from Vanderbilt University, "Preelection polls in 2020 had the largest errors in 40 years."

Those reports are from less than two years ago. And yet, here we are on the doorstep of another election and much of the coverage is still centering on every new poll, as if this pattern of inaccuracy didn't exist.

Now let me be clear, I'm not saying the opposite can't happen, that Republicans can't find themselves the victors in these midterms. Of course, that's entirely within the realm of possibility. But that's not my point. My point is no one really has any clue about what's going to happen, especially the pollsters who routinely get things wrong.

And if political pundits and reporters are being honest, they would admit that they have no actual hard data to back up the thesis that a red wave is forming.

What's worse is that many are completely ignoring the fact that this election is being conducted under circumstances unlike any other before it, with dozens of new voter suppression laws being enacted in Republican-led states in the last two years alone. This election isn't even being conducted on the same playing field as the last one, yet prognostications so often completely ignore GOP actions designed to reduce voting and affect the election outcomes.

Imagine a segment about the Super Bowl where the analysts and handicappers make their predictions for the big game but omit the fact that one team was given a 10-point lead to start the game. That's essentially what is happening now because of the voter intimidation and suppression we're seeing in states such as Arizona and Florida.

Omitting or downplaying this context in polling stories and political coverage is a huge disservice to the nation. The conventional horse-race narrative for elections has never served the public well. But in these midterms, lack of context normalizes what Republicans have done to fair elections and will further help accelerate the decline of the American democratic process.

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Authoritarianism is looming at home and abroad. But gas prices

By KEVIN MCDERMOTT
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Authoritarian movements are rising in democracies around the world, in ways not seen since the 1930s. And contrary to the title of a famous dystopian novel from that era, it can happen here. In lots of small ways, it's already happening.

In Missouri, one state official is trying to dictate what library patrons can read, while another is demanding to see journalists' emails. In Florida, people are being arrested for voting. In red states around the country, legislators energized by the reversal of Roe v. Wade are pondering how to prevent women from crossing state lines. And in Washington, the party that tried to overturn a valid presidential election could be about to retake control of Congress.

But by all means, let's talk about gas prices.

Polls show that even in an era roiled by some of the most dangerous politics in almost a century, inflation remains far and away Americans' top concern going into next month's midterms. This is unsettling but unsurprising. The situation is still better here than in much of the advanced world, but that doesn't placate voters who are swearing under their breath as they fill their tanks or their grocery carts. Hey, it could be worse isn't a real effective tagline for the party in power.

But hey—it could be worse.

Imagining how worse it could be was the point of Sinclair Lewis' 1935 novel, "It Can't Happen Here," about an Adolf Hitler-like politician seizing power in the U.S. The title is ironic, of course, reflecting Americans' confident assumption (then as now) that their democracy couldn't possibly be engulfed by a fascist movement like the ones then rising in Europe. Until it is.

As Jacob Weisberg wrote in Slate in 2016, Lewis' putatively classic novel is "more referred to than read." (I started it once, and it's pretty much unreadable.) But Weisberg aptly correlated the already-obvious autocratic instincts of then-candidate Donald Trump with Lewis' fictional president, who "understands how to manipulate the media and considers the truth an irrelevancy. His constituency of economically dispossessed white men moos at his xenophobic nationalism and preposterous promises. After he wins the 1936 election, (he) moves to assert control over the press, lock up his opponents, and put competent businessmen in charge of the country."

Sound familiar?

Still, it didn't happen here, right? Trump's blatant attempts at autocracy during his term were mostly girded by Congress, the courts and other institutions, then he lost the 2020 election, then his brownshirts tried and failed to overthrow the results. He may have been such a textbook would-be fascist that a decades-old novel was able to predict him like Nostradamus, yet democracy held. End of story.

Well, until Nov. 8, anyway. And November, 2024. Anyone who thinks this particular dystopian tale is over isn't paying attention to what's happening in Missouri and across America and around the world. And how eerily familiar it's starting to look.

Most Americans probably have a hard time imagining future historians ever footnoting American democracy with beginning and end dates. It can't happen here.

Citizens of the ancient Roman Republic (509 B.C. to 27 B.C.) presumably thought the same thing during the almost 500 years their democracy endured, before falling to the dictatorships of the Caesars. The democratically elected leaders of Germany who abetted Hitler's rise in the early 1930s believed they could control his relatively small but frenzied political movement for their own purposes. Again: Sound familiar?

Now, as then, once-stable democracies around the world are teetering like dominoes against far-right agitation from within. In such dissimilar countries as Italy, Brazil, Hungary and the Philippines, economic resentment, anti-intellectualism and xenophobia are stoking movements in which Trump-like figures are chipping at democratic norms—to the cheers of American right-wingers like the Conservative Political Action Coalition crowd that invited Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor "we do not want to become peoples of mixed-race" Orban to speak at their Texas convention.

It can't happen here? Tell that to Missouri politicians like Attorney General Eric Schmitt, who is using his state office to pry into emails between Mizzou journalism professors and media fact-checkers who might complicate his U.S. Senate run. Or state Rep. Mary Elizabeth Coleman, who wants to censor abortion information to Missouri women and legally threaten any out-of-state doctors who might help them. Or Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft, who last week announced his office wants the power to "certify" what kinds of books state-funded public libraries are allowed to carry.

Tell it to Florida's governor and likely presidential candidate, Ron DeSantis, who is crowing about the arrests of ex-convicts who inadvertently violated Florida's confusing and selectively enforced law allowing some ex-cons to vote.

And tell it to the 147 members of Congress (most of them running for re-election next month) who tried to disenfranchise millions of Americans on Jan. 6, 2021, at the behest of a lawless president who has all but vowed that his second term, if it comes, will usher in an authoritarian America. The question facing voters isn't whether it can happen here—it clearly can—but whether cheap gas is more important than democracy.

The key to unlocking the mysteries of COVID-19 is understanding immunity

By CORY FRANKLIN
Chicago Tribune

Dr. Cory Franklin is a retired intensive care physician.

Among the many medical puzzles about COVID-19 that continue to confound experts: Why does one spouse contract COVID-19 while in many cases the other does not? Why does the African continent have far fewer COVID-19 cases and deaths per capita than the other continents? Why does Singapore have more COVID-19 cases per capita than the U.S. but less than one-tenth the per capita death rate? What protects better from future COVID-19 infection, previous infection or vaccination?

Some of the partial answers to these questions are obvious: In terms of prevention, both previous infection and vaccination protect better than either alone. Environmental factors and mitigation efforts play a role in how the virus spreads, while age, obesity and underlying health affect COVID-19's severity. The novel characteristics of the virus and its variants—transmissibility and lethality—surely matter, as does chance, which invariably exerts itself in most medical mysteries.

But the real key to demystifying the COVID-19 pandemic is immunity—explaining why some individuals are able to resist infection, while others are susceptible, and still others are especially vulnerable. Unfortunately, even our best immunologists have little more than a rudimentary understanding of how immunity in COVID-19 works.

Immunity is basically how the body defends itself from germs, and it is a complicated phenomenon. We are born with certain types of immunity, we acquire some immunity through vaccination and some is developed through exposure to various infectious agents. One theory about why Africa has been relatively protected from COVID-19 is the outdoor population's greater exposure to germs—the so-called hygiene hypothesis. The lower mortality from COVID-19 in East Asia may be the result of contact with earlier COVID-19-related coronaviruses in these countries, which would have conferred some protective immunity.

Some of our immunity is the result of producing antibodies to specific diseases. But immunity goes beyond that. While antibody levels in the blood can be measured, they do not always correlate well with whatever protection our immune systems actually deliver. Besides antibodies, certain white blood cells generate a different form of immunity. Also, there is a local immunity—the respiratory airways and gastrointestinal tract have cells designed to keep hostile invaders out. The interaction among all these components is extremely complex—like the pieces on a chessboard in the hands of a grandmaster.

A recent study published in the journal Nature gave an indication of how important immunity is during pandemics. The Black Death, caused by a specific plague bacterium, may have killed as many as 200 million people in Afro-Eurasia during the Middle Ages. It is the single greatest mortality event in human history. The Nature study analyzed the DNA of centuries-old skeletons and found that those with a certain genetic mutation were 40% more likely to survive the plague than other people were. That particular gene was essential to making proteins that primed the immune system to recognize the lethal plague bacterium. The study said, "Clarifying the dynamics that have shaped the human immune system is key to understanding how historical diseases contributed to disease susceptibility today." It is humbling to think that our descendants will pass on mutations for centuries that may help people survive future COVID-19.

From a historical scientific standpoint, we are basically in the same primitive spot in medicine that we were in physics before quantum mechanics revolutionized the field. In the early years of the 20th century, Nobel laureate physicists J.J. Thomson and Ernest Rutherford proposed simple models of the atom based on the physics of Isaac Newton. Less than 20 years later, another Nobel laureate, Niels Bohr, changed physics forever with the Bohr atomic model, based on early quantum mechanics rather than classical Newtonian physics. While extremely complicated, the practical effects of the Bohr model, now obsolete itself, are evident in the development of atomic power and (regrettably) atomic weapons. Perhaps even more important was how quantum mechanics changed thinking about physics, science and the world in general.

Discovering the secrets of immunity and the reasons people respond to infections as they do will open up new vistas in medicine just as quantum mechanics did in physics. It will also guide us toward practical answers about the pandemic, including who benefits most from vaccination, which groups need the greatest protection, and what measures are likely to be effective in enhancing personal immunity. Some of what seems inexplicable today will one day be understandable.

Since biblical times, contagions have struck some humans while passing over others in ways we do not understand. When the final account of the COVID-19 pandemic is written, it will be the story of the essential trait of disease immunity.

LEARNING

From Page 10

This report card, along with the troubling results of the state-mandated standardized California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress released Monday, provide a lot of data that he can use to better direct resources for students, parents, teachers and other staff.

It's clear that a multi-pronged approach to boosting student performance will be necessary, but state and local educators and policymakers should ensure that decisions about how to allocate resources are driven by data and other evidence.

California schools received $15 billion from the American Rescue Plan. The state created the $4.6-billion Expanded Learning Opportunity Grant in 2021, issuing a set of guidelines for districts to spend on designated support such as additional staff, but it's up to districts to come up with plans that meet their needs.

The data released this week show the urgency of remediating the learning loss exacerbated by the pandemic. Now that educators have the funds and the data to help guide them, they should use that money wisely. Our children's future depends on it.

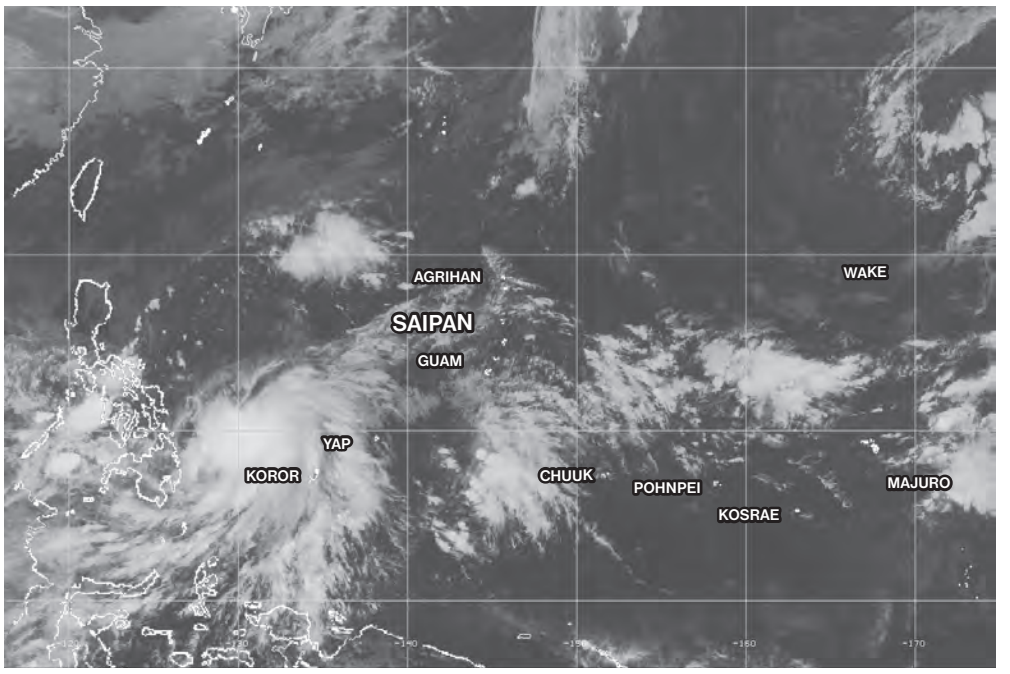
© 2022 *Los Angeles Times*

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny	Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny
85° 78°	84° 78°	86° 76°	86° 76°	87° 80°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:25 AM, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam Doppler weather radar shows widely scattered showers moving through the Marianas Waters. The buoys reveal combined seas of 5 to 7 feet composed of a large northeast swell and a much smaller swell from the southwest.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:11 AM	5:49 PM
Saturday	6:11 AM	5:49 PM
Sunday	6:12 AM	5:48 PM
Monday	6:12 AM	5:48 PM
Tuesday	6:12 AM	5:48 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	8:38 AM	8:08 PM	-
Saturday	9:43 AM	9:07 PM	-
Sunday	10:47 AM	10:10 PM	-
Monday	1:48 AM	11:14 PM	-
Tuesday	-	12:45 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Showers	69° / 61°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	62° / 44°
Hong Kong	Sunny	84° / 73°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	83° / 72°
London	Mostly Cloudy	65° / 54°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	76° / 54°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	91° / 78°
Melbourne	Rain	56° / 49°
Miami	Sunny	84° / 75°
New York	Sunny	64° / 44°
Osaka	Sunny	73° / 54°
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	74° / 60°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	70° / 58°
Rome	Sunny	79° / 55°
Salem	Sunny	74° / 54°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	64° / 48°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	66° / 43°
Tokyo	Sunny	69° / 53°
Washington, DC	Sunny	62° / 43°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY	FEET	
3:12 AM	Low Tide	-0.40
10:06 AM	High Tide	1.87
3:38 PM	Low Tide	1.10
8:35 PM	High Tide	1.84

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 6, 2022

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily
UA156	6:30PM	7:15PM	6

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	6:00AM	8:00AM	Daily
UA193	7:05PM	10:55PM	5 via Palau
UA183	7:20PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	5 via Guam, Palau
OZ624/701	4:00PM	11:05AM+1	3,6 via Incheon

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:30PM	7:20PM	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	3:30PM	7:25PM	6
7C3405	3:50PM	7:45PM	3, 4, 7
OZ624	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6

SAIPAN-NARITA

UA824	7:00AM	9:30AM	1, 3, 5

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:00PM	6:35PM	3, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
UA112	4:40PM	5:30PM	6

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:00PM	4:00AM+1	Daily
UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	5 via Palau
UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1,2,3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Palau, Guam
UA192/112	10:25PM	5:30pm+1	5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Guam
UA184/112	11:50PM	5:30pm+1	5 via Guam
OZ704/623	11:55PM	2:30PM+1	2,5 via Incheon

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
7C3406	8:50AM	2:30PM	4
7C3406	8:50AM	2:50PM	3, 7
OZ623	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6
TW307	9:00AM	2:30PM	4, 6, 7
TW307	9:15AM	2:30PM	3

NARITA-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	2:00 AM+1	2, 4, 7

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00AM	2:00PM	3, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

MARIANAS SOUTHERN AIRWAYS

INITIAL DAILY FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 18, 2022

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
7:00 A.M.	7:15 A.M.	(Except Sundays)
9:50 A.M.	10:05 A.M.	
4:00 P.M.	4:15 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
7:35 A.M.	7:50 A.M.	(Except Sundays)
10:25 A.M.	10:40 A.M.	
4:35 P.M.	4:50 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
8:10 A.M.	8:40 A.M.	
1:45 P.M.	2:15 P.M.	

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
9:00 A.M.	9:30 A.M.	
2:35 P.M.	3:05 P.M.	

SAIPAN TO GUAM

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
11:10 A.M.	12:00 P.M.	
5:15 P.M.	6:05 P.M.	

GUAM TO SAIPAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
12:30 P.M.	1:20 P.M.	
6:40 P.M.	7:30 P.M.	

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

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2022 AD

CONTACT US:
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#1 JOEL C CAMACHO
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for HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Precinct 5

2022 AD

EMAIL:
arnolddave2022@gmail.com

"Our Contract is our pledge to you for your vote of confidence in the upcoming general election as your Governor and Lt. Governor. It is a binding roadmap of what we aim to do to regain your trust in your government. With your support, we will stop the fraud, waste and abuses, and restore a Commonwealth.-OF, BY and FOR the people."

EMPOWER EDUCATION
We believe that education is the foundation of meaningful and sustainable human development in any society. We pledge to empower people of the CNMI with the skills and education to be better equipped for their own individual development while supporting the socio-economic stability of the CNMI.

GOVERN ETHICALLY
The Arnold and Dave Team pledges to rebuild trust between the citizens of the Commonwealth and its government with sets of basic ethical guiding principles. We will require accountability, fiscal responsibility, and transparency from all public offices, public servants, including elected officials.

DIVERSIFY ECONOMY
We believe in a sustainable, diversified and robust economy that can withstand the uncertainties and consequences of regional and global forces. We pledge to create greater opportunities to prosper and succeed as individuals and as a community within a well-planned, sustainable and diversified economy.

PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT
We believe that we are all stewards of the environment and it is everyone's responsibility to protect and preserve the environment for our children and the generations that follow.

GUARANTEE RETIREMENT
We honor the sacrifices of our retirees who have invested much of their lives strengthening our community. We will fight to afford retirees a dignified and comfortable retirement life. Unquestionably, we have a legal obligation to ensure adequate funding of the Settlement Fund.

IMPROVE HEALTHCARE
We believe that each individual in our Commonwealth is entitled to quality healthcare and should be provided with the necessary care and service to live a safe and healthy life. We will ensure that our healthcare system is equipped to provide accessible and quality primary health care, social services and mental health support.

FORGE PARTNERSHIPS
We believe that a key to mitigating harmful external forces is by forging regional partnerships and nurturing existing federal relationships. We will foster close partnerships with the military and simultaneously encourage responsible practices and accountability in pursuit of protecting and preserving our natural resources.

IMPLEMENT REFORMS
We strive to rebuild the public trust in our government, the foundation which shapes the relationship between the people and its government. We will serve with a transparent government that is efficient, productive, and economical in its operations, ethical and responsive in its delivery of services and relentless in the protection of public interest.

TREASURE OUR HISTORY AND CULTURE
We recognize the priceless value of our historical and cultural resources but we are equally aware of our strength in our cultural diversity. We pledge to cultivate the economic and intrinsic value of these resources and be vigilant in our efforts to protect, promote and showcase them in our community and to our visitors.

HONOR VETERANS AND ACTIVE SERVICE MEMBERS
We honor those that risked their lives and those that continue to do so to protect our freedom and a democratic way of life. We pledge to work with the US Delegate and military partners to ensure that the benefits and services afforded to our veterans are second to none. Our veterans and active service members deserve a grateful nation's best and nothing less.

SUPPORT LAW ENFORCEMENT AND SECURE OUR HOMELAND
The Department of Public Safety (DPS) and the Department of Corrections (DOC) stand at the forefront to ensure everyone's safety and protection in the CNMI. The fine professional men and women of the CNMI Law Enforcement often put their lives in harm's way.

We believe that our resilience to survive and mitigate the impacts of unprecedented threats, crimes, hazards or emergencies, man-made or otherwise, depend on the effective coordination of our first responders and awareness /readiness of our community.

INVOLVE COMMUNITY
"A true community is not just about geographically close to someone or part of the same social network. It's about feeling connected and responsible for what happens." In this spirit, we aim to provide community programs that promote a sense of belonging and ownership through sports, arts and crafts, cultural events, and others.

Visit us:
www.rebuildingtrust.org

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Ex-chief prosecutor Bradley is back as House legal counsel

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former CNMI chief prosecutor John Bradley is back on the island and started working since Monday last week as legal counsel for the House of Representatives.

Bradley went back to Texas in July 2021 after the expiration of his contract with the CNMI Office of the Attorney General and because his parents were elderly. His father has since passed away a month ago.

"After we settled all of that, my wife and I wanted to come back to Saipan because we love it so much," he said Monday.

Bradley

When asked why he chose to serve as House counsel instead of going back to the OAG, Bradley said he used to worked for the Texas Legislature when he was younger. "And I remember enjoying working with legislators and writing bills and advising. So I decided to come back and do that instead of being a prosecutor," he said.

Bradley said he is delighted to be back on the island. "I went diving yesterday (Sunday) for the first time since I got back because the weather finally opened up. And I got to see an octopus and play with it for about 10 minutes. I saw turtles and a stingray and I'm glad to be back," he said.

Bradley's co-counsel in the House is Joseph Taijeron.

Bradley said

With the CNMI Supreme Court's interim rule that eased some Rules of Admission, he can come back and continue working for an additional four years. "So that rule change benefitted me and I'm glad that I can work with the House because of it," Bradley said.

He is referring to the CNMI Supreme Court's proposed Rule 73-2 of Title 9, Rules of Admission, that seeks to increase from four years to a maximum of eight years the time allowed for recruited government lawyers to practice in the Commonwealth without requiring them to pass the NMI Bar examination.

The Senate approved the proposed rule. The House Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee did not act on it.

JGO chair Rep. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) said yesterday that the Senate had approved the interim rule so there was no need for the JGO to recommend its adoption to the full House.

Babauta said only one house of the Legislature is required to act on it in order to accept or defeat any proposed rule of the Judiciary.

Weeks leaving Saipan for Texas in 2021, Bradley told the House Ways and Means Committee that in order for the CNMI to get off-island lawyers to commit to staying longer on the islands, the Legislature has to consider creating an exemption—for those who want to stay and work for the government—to the rule that requires them to take the NMI Bar examination after serving the government for four years.

Bradley had worked with the OAG in Palau for two and a half years. Before that, he was a prosecutor and an elected district attorney in Texas.

He started serving as CNMI chief prosecutor in July 2019.

Job Vacancy Announcement
MANGO
Marianas Alliance of Non-Governmental Organizations
GRANT WRITER
Interested applicants submit resume and cover letter to info@mangocnmi.org
For more information on the position, visit mangocnmi.org

Job Vacancy Announcement
MANGO
Marianas Alliance of Non-Governmental Organizations
PROGRAM ASSISTANT
Interested applicants submit resume and cover letter to info@mangocnmi.org
For more information on the position, visit mangocnmi.org

Rotary Club donates over $2K to anti-polio efforts

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

In support of World Polio Day last Monday, Oct. 24, the Rotary Club of Saipan joined the rest of the world in the effort to end polio by donating $2,200 to Rotary International's PolioPlus program, with the amount being tripled to $6,600 by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

World Polio Day provides an opportunity to highlight global efforts toward a polio-free world, and to honor the commitment of those on the frontlines of the fight to eradicate polio.

Wendell Posadas, president of the Rotary Club of Saipan, explained at their Tuesday meeting at the Giovanni's of Hyatt Regency Saipan that their partners in the fight to end polio is led by the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, which includes Rotary International, UNICEF, the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the World Health Organization, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, "and governments of the world with the support of many others in the globe."

Posadas and Rotarians Dr. Peter Gregor and Dr. Ana Maria Gregor led the initial efforts to donate at the meeting and were soon followed by the rest of the Rotarians.

According to the Rotary International's PolioPlus, their goal has been to eradicate polio for more than 35 years.

"As a founding partner of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, we've reduced polio cases by 99.9% since our first project to vaccinate children in the Philippines in 1979. Rotary members have contributed more than $2.1 billion and countless volunteer hours to protect nearly 3 billion children in 122 countries from this paralyzing disease. …Today, polio remains endemic only in Afghanistan and Pakistan. But it's crucial to continue working to keep other countries polio-free. If all eradication efforts stopped today, within 10 years, polio could paralyze as many as 200,000 children each year," states their website.

Dr. Peter Gregor, who was the guest speaker at their meeting, explained what polio is and does—a paralyzing and potentially deadly infectious disease that most commonly affects children under the age of 5. It spreads from person to person via contaminated water and can then attack the nervous system.

In his presentation, Dr. Peter Gregor also stated that the first polio case in nearly a decade was recently reported in New York, but that the end game is "an ambitious $4.8-billion plan to rid the world of polio by 2026. The strategy focuses on vaccinating 370 million children annually against polio for the next five years."

COMMONWEALTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CEDA)
PO Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. No. 670-234-6245 | Fax: 670-235-7147
Website: www.developcnmi.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Friday, October 28, 2022

The Commonwealth Economic Development Authority (CEDA), through its Board of Directors, grants a three-month (90 day) automatic loan payment deferral for CEDA loan clients/business owners from October 2022 to December 31, 2022. The support for this temporary relief is based on the significant impact of the increase in the cost of goods, services, fuel, and utilities, along with the CEDA management recommendation.

Three-month (90 day) Loan Deferral Details:

- The deferred loan payments are added to the end of the loan
- Customers need to remember that eventually they must make those payments
- Restart your loan payments, on or by the due date, in the month of January 2023
- Interest will accrue during the three-month loan payment deferral period (Loan interest rates range from a low of 2% to a max of 9%--with rates averaging 7%)
- The loan deferral period will not cure any delinquent past due amounts
- No action required by borrowers to defer their loan payments, except, for those borrowers with scheduled automatic monthly loan payments (via debit/credit card), please contact us to temporarily cease those payments for all or part of the deferral.

Here's our contact info:

CEDA Loan Team

Abby Atalig	a.atalig@developcnmi.com	(670) 234-6245 ext. 309
Fred Cruz	f.cruz@developcnmi.com	ext. 305
Marie Coleman	m.coleman@developcnmi.com	ext. 307

Or please visit us at the CEDA Building, Unit 103 (ground floor), located at 2390 Beach Road, Oleai (across from The Shack and Oleai Beach Bar & Grill).

Tinian office
Please contact the CEDA Loan Team

Rota office
Elaine M. Manglona e.manglona@developcnmi.com (670) 532-9408

Please contact us at the above if we may be of further assistance.

/s/ Manuel A. Sablan
CEDA Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

DEVELOPMENT OF ECHO DOCK
PORT OF SAIPAN
CPA RFP NO. CPA-RFP-010-2022
(CPA CONCESSION NO. SEA 2022-01)

The Commonwealth Ports Authority ("Authority") is inviting qualified developers and their development teams to submit sealed proposals, subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposals (the "RFP") and other contract provisions, for the development of Echo Dock, which is situated north of the Port of Saipan. The Executive Director hereby determines that the use of an Invitation for Bid is neither practical nor advantageous to the Authority because the Authority wishes to acquire services and products that cannot be evaluated by cost alone. This RFP is being issued pursuant to NMIAC § 40-70-205.

The RFP Package is available beginning Wednesday, August 31, 2022, at the Authority's Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport upon payment of a non-refundable administrative fee of $200.00. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, cashier's check, or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Other than this administrative fee, proposers are not required to submit a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Authority will hold a briefing for interested parties at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, September 16, 2022, to explain the Authority's development objectives, the RFP process, and to answer questions. The meeting will be held at the Authority's Seaport Conference Room, George Fleming Building. All potential applicants are encouraged to attend but it is not mandatory.

All proposers are requested to pay attention to the following significant dates and times:

Date RFP Package becomes available	August 31, 2022 (8:00 AM)
Date of RFP briefing meeting	September 16, 2022 (10:00 AM)
Deadline to submit Notice of Intent	September 28, 2022 (4:00 PM)
Deadline to submit Statement of Qualifications	October 13, 2022 (4:00 PM)
Notification of qualified applicants of the RFP	October 28, 2022
Deadline for RFP submission	November 30, 2022 (4:00 PM)

Qualified proposers shall submit their sealed proposals to the "CPA Evaluation Committee" and mark the outside cover of its submittal as follows: "RFP Proposal: Confidential - Development of the Echo Dock, Saipan (RFP-010-2022)." Five (5) hard copies and one electronic copy on CD, DVD, or flash drive of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:00 p.m. CHST, Wednesday, November 30, 2022**, to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Proposals submitted by facsimile (fax) transmission will not be considered. Any proposals received after the proposal submittal deadline shall be returned to the proposer unopened. The Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted if sufficient justification exist that awarding the project would not be in the best interest of the CPA.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date **8/26/2022**

Name: Doris Cabrera Castro
Address: Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: 788-2747/285-7891

Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re the Matter of the Petition for the for the Appointment of General Guardianship for:	FCD-GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 22-0251
U.R.J.B. Minor Child	NOTICE OF HEARING
By:.	
Doris Cabrera Castro Petitioner	

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on February 27, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 217A before Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 16th day of August, 2022.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

Pohnpei students make a splash at int'l robotics competition

POHNPEI, Micronesia—The robotics team from Pohnpei Island Central School returned from the FIRST Global International Robotics Challenge in Switzerland with the title of "First among small countries," and a story to encourage their peers across the Federated States of Micronesia

The FIRST Global Challenge is an international high school robotics competition, in which small teams representing over 180 countries compete Olympics-style for the championship. This year's competition was held in Geneva, Switzerland, with a challenge built around collaboratively using robotics to address climate change issues. After being accepted to represent the FSM in Switzerland, the team of five students spent the weeks before the competition building and training for the specific tasks in the challenges. This meant ensuring that their competition robot was perfectly equipped to carry out particular movements and actions, while fitting into the guidelines required by FIRST Global.

Getting the team and equipment across the world to Switzerland provided a series of obstacles the robotics club could not train for. As the plane prepared to take off from Pohnpei, one of the trainers was unable to board, due to a paperwork mixup on the visa application. Thanks to the quick support from the U.S. Embassy in Kolonia, the corrected forms were fast tracked, enabling the students' team leader to catch a later flight, and arrive in Geneva in time for the competition. Another key member of Team FSM was not so lucky. The carefully crafted robot, built and customized by the PICS team, was lost in the connecting flights from Pohnpei to Switzerland. Disaster was averted by the determination of the FSM team, who were able to acquire a new robot, and build it up to the approved competition standards the very same day.

The robotics team from Pohnpei Island Central School participate in the FIRST Global International Robotics Challenge in Switzerland.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Throughout the three day competition, Team FSM battled it out with teams from 180 countries in a high energy arena, complete with live-streamed commentary. As the competition came to a close, Team FSM stood with two wins, one loss, and no ties.

Returning to Pohnpei with the title of "First among small countries," the PICS Team was greeted by water cannons saluting their plane as it landed, and a cheering group of dignitaries and students waiting for them off the runway. Gov. Reed Oliver welcomed the team back with encouragement and praise. "You represented not only FSM but Pohnpei, specifically. We thank you for representing us and representing us very well. We are very, very proud of you."

The students from PICS bring fresh encouragement and enthusiasm to their peers in the Pohnpei Robo League. This league is part of the larger Habele Robo League, which equips and supports robotics clubs at high schools across the FSM. Beginning in 2012 at a single school on Yap, the Habele Robo League began as an opportunity for students to participate in hands-on STEM learning, using equipment donated by private partners in the US. Beginning in 2018, a partnership between Habele and the Office of Insular Affairs expanded the Habele Robotics League across the FSM, allowing schools in all four states the opportunity to participate in the only regional STEM program of its kind.

"The Robo League encourages students to become problem solvers who can think on their feet," said Matt Coleman, Habele's director of Operations. "The team from Pohnpei confronted and overcame challenges before they ever got to the competition floor. In my mind they won before it started."

Established by Peace Corps Volunteers, Habele is a 501(3) nonprofit supporting Micronesian students. ***(Habele)***

HANMI donates $10K to NMTech

From left, Catherine Perry, Marianas Tourism Education Council board member; Jodina Attao, chief executive officer of Northern Marianas Technical Institute; Guillaume Delemarle, HANMI board member and general manager of Hyatt Regency Saipan, and Dennis Seo, vice chairman of HANMI and general manager of Pacific Islands Club.
LEIGH GASES

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands donated $10,000 to the Northern Marianas Technical Institute, with HANMI officials turning over the check yesterday to NMTech at its facility in Lower Base.

HANMI, represented by Dennis Seo, vice chairman of HANMI and general manager of Pacific Islands Club; Guillaume Delemarle, HANMI board member and general manager of Hyatt Regency Saipan; and Catherine Perry, Marianas Tourism Education Council board member, presented the check to Jodina Attao, chief executive officer of NMTech, and some members of its faculty and staff.

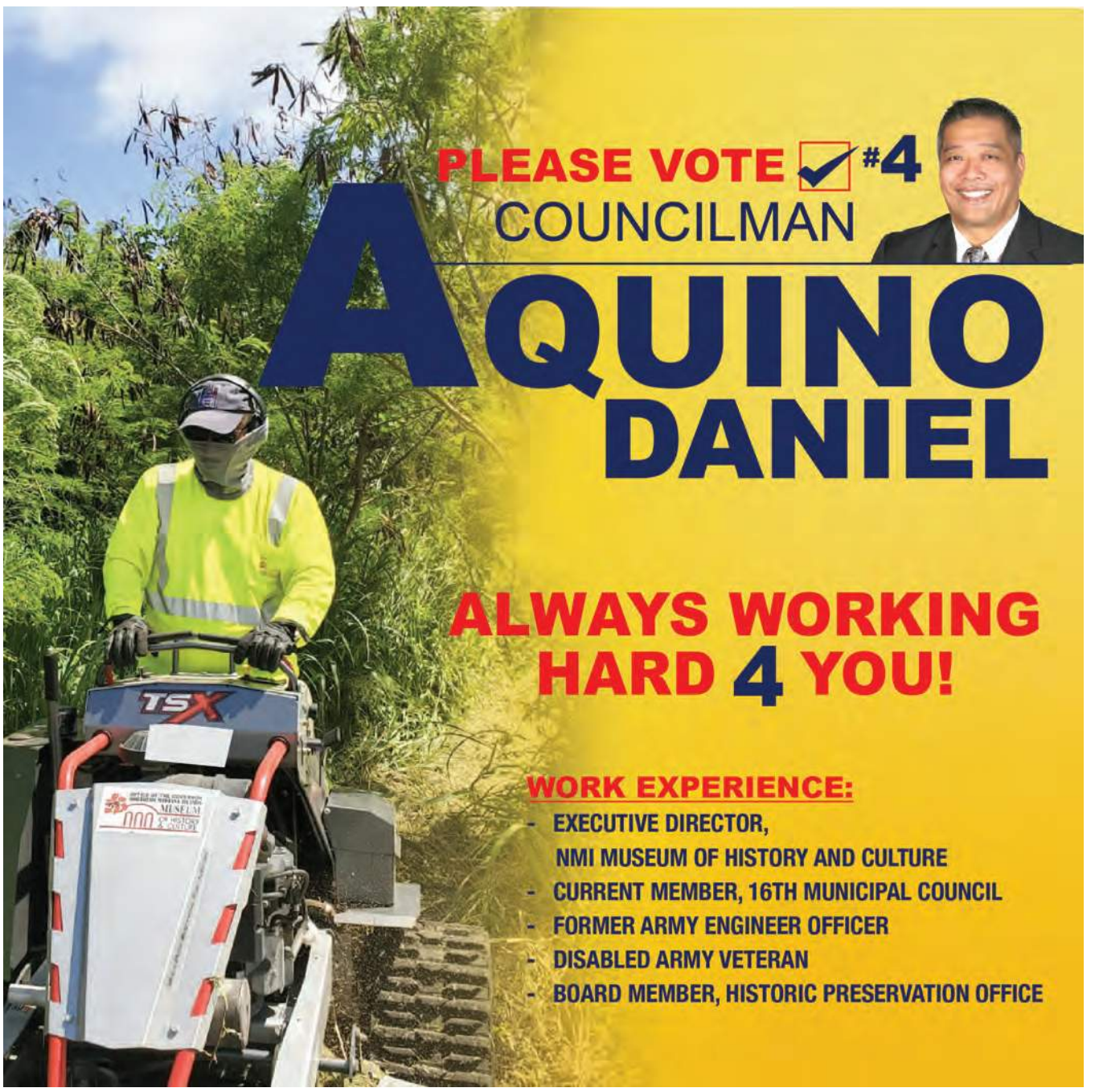
Seo said the money came from the proceeds of the 20th Annual HANMI Golf Tournament last September.

"I know how much this cause means to NMTech. HANMI has been a true supporter for [NMTech] for a long time, and made cash donation in their honor this year again. Everybody understands the importance of this donation to educational Institutions like [NMTech] and how it could support the entire of businesses in the Northern Mariana Islands," said Seo.

Rather than calling it a donation, he said it is actually HANMI investing in people. "This is because [NMTech] has a variety of vocational programs where our local people can get some educational benefits by taking such programs."

He said it is not a huge amount but it could help NMTech purchase some educational tools or materials for their programs and students. "Then our local people may obtain special knowledge and skills from [NMTech] that may help them to find jobs in the tourism and hotel industry. Therefore, both HANMI and [NMTech] may benefit from this donation."

Attao said that NMTech is "very grateful to have HANMI, its board members, Ms. Catherine for coordinating the golf tournament this year. We didn't expect to be getting the donation until she emailed and we're grateful because we know that we can take this money and duplicate it. Like you said, it's an investment and we're good at duplicating stuff. So, thank you so much."



Business

Fashion jewelry shop Oops Boutique opens

MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Oops Boutique is located on the second floor of Tun Kiku's Building along Middle Road in Garapan. MARK RABAGO

Most of Oops Boutique's items are sterling silver and gold-plated that retail between $1.99 and $35.99. MARK RABAGO

A new shop selling fashion jewelry has opened in Garapan with owner Sun Qi opting to meet the trendy needs of teenagers.

Oops Boutique is located on the second floor of Tun Kiku's Building next to Beauty Facial and just above Herman's Bakery along Middle Road.

"The reason we opened this shop is because people are so focused on what adults need but sometimes forget how the younger ones who don't have that much money can afford fine accessories," said Qi.

Qi said that most of their merchandise are imported from Korea and they opted to call it Oops Boutique, "because we want the customers who are wearing our accessories to impress people the first time they see them."

Since opening last Oct. 1, Oops Boutique's most popular items are its unique earrings and one-of-a-kind bracelets.

"Most of our products are sterling silver and some are gold-plated. All of our products have price tags and from $1.99 to $35.99," said Qi.

Asked what it's like to open a business during the COVID-19 pandemic, she said one thing's for sure it's quite challenging.

"Well, overall. It is really tough to open a business during the pandemic. And also as you know, everything in increasing includes utilities, rent, and gas. But we still decided to open it anyway because we feel that young people need to have some options to shop for," she said.

While Oops Boutique currently has no promotions during its first month of operations, Qi assured everyone that they will be offering discounts in the upcoming holidays.

"For now we don't have any promos going on. But we will have promotions on the upcoming holidays, Halloween, and Christmas. And the best part is that we have the merchandise just for the holidays."

Oops Boutique is open everyday from 10am to 7pm. For more information, call 670-989-1989.

Magazine announces sponsors of Top Companies List

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

At the contract signing last Oct. 26 were, from left, ASC Trust LCC chair and managing director David J. John,Guam Business Magazine publisher Maureen N. Maratita, and Bank of Guam pr esident and CEO Joaquin P.L.G. Cook.

Guam Business Magazine is happy to announce that Bank of Guam and ASC Trust LLC will sponsor the List of Top Companies in Micronesia in the November-December issue of the magazine in the upcoming 2022 issue and in the coming years.

"Bank of Guam is pleased to sponsor this unique snapshot of businesses in our region on their accomplishments, successes and challenges from the year," said Bank of Guam president and CEO Joaquin P.L.G. Cook.

The List contains a variety of information from conglomerates, businesses and small businesses that do business in Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia and the Marshall Islands.

ASC chair and managing directorDavid J. John said, "The variety of private sector participants truly takes the temperature of the current economic climate in the islands and ASC Trust looks forward to bringing you this annual perspective of business in Micronesia."

Guam Business Magazine has been curating the List for decades —since 1992. Maureen N. Maratita, publisher of the magazine said, "We know the List and its variety of analyses—including the opinions of our Sponsors—is eagerly awaited each year, whether the economic times are good or bad." ***(PR)***

Nation

Trump aide Meadows ordered to testify in poll investigation

ATLANTA (AP)—A judge on Wednesday ordered former White House chief of staff Mark Meadows to testify before a special grand jury that's investigating whether President Donald Trump and his allies illegally tried to sway Georgia's results in the 2020 election.

Meadows, a former GOP congressman, is a key figure in the investigation. He traveled to Georgia, sat in on Trump's phone calls with state officials and coordinated and communicated with outside influencers who were either encouraging or discouraging the pressure campaign.

Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis opened the investigation last year into actions taken by Trump and others to overturn his loss to Democrat Joe Biden in the state. Meadows is just one of several associates and advisers of the Republican former president whose testimony Willis has sought.

Because Meadows doesn't live in Georgia, Willis, a Democrat, had to use a process that involved getting a judge where he lives in South Carolina to order him to appear. First, Fulton County Superior Court Judge Robert McBurney, who's overseeing the special grand jury, signed off on a petition certifying that Meadows was a "necessary and material witness."

Meadows

Now, Circuit Court Judge Edward Miller in Pickens County, South Carolina, has honored McBurney's finding and ordered Meadows to testify, Willis spokesman Jeff DiSantis confirmed.

Meadows attorney Jim Bannister told The Associated Press that his client was "weighing all options," including appeals.

"Nothing final until we see the order," he said.

Willis has been fighting similar battles—mostly with success—in courts around the country as she seeks to compel Trump allies to testify. But an appeals court in Texas has indicated it may not recognize the validity of the Georgia summonses, and U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina asked the U.S. Supreme Court to intervene after a federal appeals court last week ordered him to testify.

In the petition seeking Meadows' testimony, Willis wrote that he attended a Dec. 21, 2020, meeting at the White House with Trump and others "to discuss allegations of voter fraud and certification of Electoral College votes from Georgia and other states."

The next day, Willis wrote, Meadows made a "surprise visit" to Cobb County, just outside Atlanta, where an audit of signatures on absentee ballot envelopes was being conducted. He asked to observe the audit but wasn't allowed to because it wasn't open to the public, the petition says.

Meadows also sent emails to Justice Department officials after the election alleging voter fraud in Georgia and elsewhere and requesting investigations, Willis wrote. And he took part in a Jan. 2, 2021, phone call with Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger, during which Trump suggested that Raffensperger, the state's top elections official and a Republican, could "find" enough votes to overturn the president's narrow loss in the state.

According to a transcript of the call with Raffensperger, Meadows said Trump's team believed that "not every vote or fair vote and legal vote was counted. And that's at odds with the representation from the secretary of state's office." He goes on to say he hopes they can agree on a way "to look at this a little bit more fully."

Election Day is Nov. 8, but legal challenges already begin

WASHINGTON (AP)—Election Day is 12 days away. But in courtrooms across the country, efforts to sow doubt over the outcome have already begun.

More than 100 lawsuits have been filed this year around the upcoming midterm elections. The suits, largely by Republicans, target rules over mail-in voting, early voting, voter access, voting machines, voting registration, the counting of mismarked absentee ballots and access for partisan poll watchers.

It's the most litigation ever before an election and it's likely a preview of a potentially contentious post-election landscape. The strategy was born in part of the failure of allies of former President Donald Trump to successfully challenge and overturn the free and fair results of the 2020 presidential election.

But while the 2020 election effort was an ad hoc response fronted by a collection of increasingly ill-prepared lawyers that included Rudy Giuliani, today's effort is a more formalized, well-funded and well-organized campaign run by the Republican National Committee and other legal allies with strong bona fides. Party officials say they are actively preparing for recounts, contested elections and more litigation. And there are thousands of volunteers in place primed to challenge ballots and hunt down evidence of malfeasance.

"We're now at the point where charges of fraud and suppression are baked into the turnout models for each party. Republicans charge fraud. Democrats charge suppression. Each side amplifies its position with massive and costly amounts of litigation and messaging," said Benjamin Ginsberg, co-chair of the Election Official Legal Defense Network and former counsel to the George W. Bush campaign and other Republican candidates.

Democrats, too, have similar efforts underway. But their legal effort ahead of the election focuses on making voting easier and helping those denied a chance to vote, through legal hotlines and volunteers. A team led by attorney Marc Elias and his firm is litigating roughly 40 cases in 19 states, some in which they have intervened in Republican-led lawsuits.

Elias said he's bracing for a deluge of litigation challenging election results, particularly as some Republican candidates have already said they will not accept a loss or have planted doubt on the election process despite no evidence of fraud.

"The problem with the Republican Party right now is that conceding you lost an election is the only thing that will hurt you," Elias said. "Contesting an election that is clearly lost is now where all the incentive structure is, and that is incredibly corrosive for democracy."

BOOST Program is the acronym for - **B**uilding **O**ptimism, **O**pportunities and **S**tability **T**ogether. It is a financial assistance in the form of Grants – initiated by the Office of the Governor, Department of Commerce, and Department of Finance – provided to local businesses and non-profits, as well as coaching and training programs to support their viability and help create employment opportunities. The program also supports the Commonwealth government's goal of diversifying the economy and increasing tax revenues.

The BOOST program partners with local organizations to provide guidance and technical support for our local small businesses, future entrepreneurs, industry leaders, and local fishers, farmers, and ranchers.

DEADLINE EXTENDED
TO NOVEMBER 18

The BOOST Expo on October 25th at the Taga Hall, World Resort was open to the public to provide information about the BOOST Program and provide support to those looking to apply.

Existing CNMI Businesses, Start-up Businesses, Industrial Pioneers, and Non-Profit Organizations, apply now for the BOOST Grant Program!

For inquiries simply log on to www.boostcnmi.com

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-23-001

Sewer Main and Manhole Replacement Project (Chinatown and Navy hill)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Sewer Main and Manhole Replacement Project (Chinatown and Navy Hill) in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists of the installation of gravity sewer main, new service laterals, connection to existing service laterals, and the installation of sewer manholes.

The project is funded by a grant from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and CUC. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from ARPA.

CUC requires the project to be completed in **365 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **$200.00** for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **October 17, 2022 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-23-001, Sewer Main and Manhole Replacement Project (Chinatown and Navy Hill)"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on November 7, 2022**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the Unites States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 21, 2022** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org, with a copy to Larry Manacop, Acting Chief Engineer for Water/Wastewater via email at larry.manacop@cucgov.org, Joel Puyat, CUC's Water/Wastewater Engineer via email at joel.puyat@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie L. Sablan CUC's Procurement & Supply, Senior Administrative Technician. via email address at christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MANNY B. SABLAN
PURCHASING ADMINISTRATOR

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-23-002

Sewer Main and Manhole Replacement Project (Beach Road and Chalan Kanoa)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Sewer Main and Manhole Replacement Project (Beach Road and Chalan Kanoa) in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists of the installation of gravity sewer main, new service laterals, connection to existing service laterals, and the installation of sewer manholes.

The project is funded by a grant from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and CUC. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from ARPA.

CUC requires the project to be completed in **365 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **$200.00** for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **October 18, 2022 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-23-002, Sewer Main and Manhole Replacement Project (Beach Road and Chalan Kanoa)"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on November 09, 2022**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the Unites States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

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Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 21, 2022** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC's Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org, with a copy to Larry Manacop, Acting Chief Engineer for Water/Wastewater via email at larry.manacop@cucgov.org, Joel Puyat, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email at joel.puyat@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie L. Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Senior Administrative Technician via email address at christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MANNY B. SABLAN
PURCHASING ADMINISTRATOR

Asia

ASIAN BRIEFS

US vows full military defense of allies against North Korea

TOKYO (AP)—The United States will make full use of its military capabilities, "including nuclear, conventional and missile defense," to defend its allies Japan and South Korea, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman said Tuesday as she warned North Korea against escalating its provocations. Sherman said North Korea's repeated firings of ballistic missiles and artillery in recent weeks were provocative military actions. North Korea has described them as practice runs for the use of tactical nuclear weapons. "This is deeply irresponsible, dangerous, and destabilizing," Sherman said in talks in Tokyo with South Korean First Vice Foreign Minister Cho Hyun-dong. The two officials met ahead of a three-way meeting with their Japanese counterpart on Wednesday.

China using inhalable COVID-19 vaccine

BEIJING (AP)—The Chinese city of Shanghai started administering an inhalable COVID-19 vaccine on Wednesday in what appears to be a world first. The vaccine, a mist that is sucked in through the mouth, is being offered for free as a booster dose for previously vaccinated people, according to an announcement on an official city social media account.Scientists hope that such "needle-free" vaccines will make vaccination more accessible in countries with fragile health systems because they are easier to administer. They also may persuade people who don't like getting a shot in the arm to get inoculated.

Pakistanis hope Sunak will push India on Kashmir resolution

GUJRANWALA, Pakistan (AP)—Britain's new prime minister, Rishi Sunak, has embraced his Indian and Hindu heritage but he also has roots in present-day Pakistan, in the city of Gujranwala, where his paternal grandparents lived during Britain's colonial rule. The city saw some of the deadliest sectarian riots during the 1947 partition that carved out India and Pakistan from the former British Empire.

PROPERTY FOR SALE
LOT NO. 002 G 300
NOTICE OF AUCTION & SALE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the undersigned counsel, Attorney Robert T. Torres (the auctioneer or his designee), for and on behalf of the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund, will sell at auction, to the highest bidder, on **November 25, 2022**, at 10:00 a.m., at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Alageta Road, Kagman III, Saipan Municipality, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described further as follows:

Lot No. 002 G 300, containing an area of 929 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 002 G 07, the original of which was recorded on May 14, 1990, as Document No. 90-1904 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saian, CNMI.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. **Rights and Duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties conducting the auction sale:
a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before the sale or before a bid for such property is accepted;
b) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever there; and
c) to reject any and all bids.

2. **Minimum Bid.** Minimum bid for the sale of Lot No. 002 G 300 is **One Hundred Thousand Dollars and 00/100 (US $100,000.00).** All bids shall be in writing and constitute a formal offer from each bidder. Bids may be submitted in advance for said property. Bids may be submitted in advance in writing for the foregoing property. The minimum bid shall be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be submitted in person (at the auction), via email, or in writing by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, 5962 Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 500730, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749; Email: robert.torres@rttlawgroup.com by **8:00 a.m., Chamorro Standard Time on the auction date**. Any person who submits his/her bid shall provide a copy of his/her valid Identification Card (valid CNMI Driver's License or Passport). A written bid shall include the bidder's signature, with his/her telephone number, mailing address, and any other contact information. The winning bidder shall be the person to whom the property is confirmed if the bid is accepted. The CNMI Retirement Fund assumes no liability for any errors or omissions as to a bidder's name or identification if that information is not correctly indicated on the bid form. **Please contact the Law Office of Robert t. Torres for a bid form.**

3. **Deposit and Payment.** A non-refundable guarantee deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) day of the auction sale by the winning bidder, no later than 4:00 pm on that date, by payment to the Law Office of Robert T. Torres. The remaining balance shall be due within ten (10) calendar days from the auction sale. If the tenth calendar day falls on a weekend then the balance shall be due that Monday after the tenth calendar day. **All payments shall be made by cash, money order, or cashier's check.** Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the bidder's rights, title, and interest in the money shall revert to the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund.

4. **Change of Terms.** Auctioneer and the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund reserve the right to change any of the terms conducted and enforcement of sale by the announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by the constructive notice.

5. **Quitclaim Deed to Winning Bidder:** All bidders are notified that the NMI Retirement Funds, the Judgment – Creditors, shall issue a Quitclaim Deed to the Winning Bidder.

6. **Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are informed and cautioned to inspect the title and property including performing any title research, property inspection, boundary inspection, easement research, and encroachment research on the subject property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranties including but not limited to habitability or fitness for purpose. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer. A copy of the appraisal report and other documents pertaining to the property to be sold at auction are available upon request for review in advance of the auction date.

DATED this 24th day of October 2022.

/s/_____
Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer for
Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund

World

Gunmen attack major Shiite holy site in Iran, killing 15

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Gunmen attacked a major Shiite holy site in Iran on Wednesday, killing at least 15 people and wounding dozens. The attack came as protesters elsewhere in Iran marked a symbolic 40 days since a woman's death in custody ignited the biggest anti-government movement in over a decade.

State TV blamed the attack on "takfiris," a term that refers to Sunni Muslim extremists who have targeted the country's Shiite majority in the past. The attack appeared to be unrelated to the demonstrations.

The official website of the judiciary said two gunmen were arrested and a third is on the run after the attack on the Shah Cheragh mosque, the second holiest site in Iran. The state-run IRNA news agency reported the death toll and state TV said 40 people were wounded.

An Iranian news website considered to be close to the Supreme National Security Council reported that the attackers were foreign nationals, without elaborating.

The Islamic State group late Wednesday claimed responsibility for the attack on its Amaq news agency. It said an armed IS militant stormed the shrine and opened fire on its visitors. It claimed that some 20 people were killed and dozens more were wounded.

Such attacks are rare in Iran, but last April, an assailant stabbed two clerics to death at the Imam Reza shrine, the country's most revered Shiite site, in the northeast city of Mashhad.

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said that whoever led and planned the attack will "receive a regretful and decisive response," without elaborating. IRNA quoted Raisi as saying, "This evil will definitely not go unanswered."

AP

Bullet holes on the wall and blood on the ground are seen after gunmen attacked the Shah Cheragh shrine in the southern city of Shiraz, Iran, Wednesday, Oct. 26, 2022.

Earlier on Wednesday, thousands of protesters had poured into the streets of a northwestern city to mark the watershed 40 days since the death in custody of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini, whose tragedy sparked the protests.

Deaths are commemorated in Shiite Islam — as in many other traditions — again 40 days later, typically with an outpouring of grief. In Amini's Kurdish hometown of Saqez, the birthplace of the nationwide unrest now roiling Iran, crowds snaked through the local cemetery and thronged her grave.

"Death to the dictator!" protesters cried, according to video footage that corresponds with known features of the city and Aichi Cemetery. Women ripped off their headscarves, or hijabs, and waved them above their heads. Other videos showed a massive procession making its way along a highway and through a dusty field toward Amini's grave. There were reports of road closures in the area.

State-linked media reported 10,000 protesters in the procession to her grave.

WORLD BRIEFS

Arab voters key to breaking deadlock in Israeli election

UMM AL FAHM, Israel (AP) — The voices of Israel's Palestinian citizens are often drowned out or delegitimized in the country's noisy politics. Yet in the upcoming parliament election, they could hold the key to breaking an entrenched political deadlock. Israelis vote Tuesday for the fifth time in under four years. The country remains divided over former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's fitness to serve while on trial for corruption. Polls show those numbers have barely budged What could tip the scales is the vote of one-fifth of Israelis who are of Palestinian descent, with family ties in adjacent territories Israel captured in 1967. Turnout among these voters will be key: High numbers could swing the election in favor of Netanyahu's opponents, while a drop could pave the way for Netanyahu's return. "I can hardly remember a single election campaign that all depended on the vote of Arab citizens," said Arik Rudnitzky, who studies Arab voting patterns at the Israel Democracy Institute, a think tank.

French leader vows to raise retirement age to 65, up from 62

PARIS (AP)—French President Emmanuel Macron vowed Wednesday to implement a pension reform that would eventually push up the retirement age by three years to 65, making younger generations work longer. In an interview on France 2 television, Macron said the changes would start being applied next year. "There's only one way to do it if we are lucid. Since we are living longer, it's to work longer," he said. The minimum retirement age to get full a pension would be gradually increased from 62 now to 65 by 2031, he said. Yet Macron said he is "open" to discuss the retirement age with unions and make potential amendments. Such measures would apply to people who worked enough to qualify. Those who do not fulfill the conditions, like many women who interrupt their career to raise their children, must currently work until 67. All French workers receive a state pension. Not implementing these changes would mean the government would need to decrease the size of pensions, Macron said.

Zimbabwe's focus on wheat set to yield biggest-ever harvest

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)—Zimbabwe says it is on the brink of its biggest wheat harvest in history, thanks in large part to efforts to overcome food supply problems caused by the war in Ukraine. But bush fires and impending rains are threatening crops yet to be harvested. Like other African countries, Zimbabwe has for decades relied on imports to offset low local production. After Russia's invasion of Ukraine resulted in global shortages and price hikes, the country wanted to ensure "self-sufficiency at all costs," Deputy Agriculture Minister Vangelis Haritatos told The Associated Press this week. The country expects to harvest 380,000 tons of wheat, "which is 20,000 more than we require as a country," Haritatos said. That is up from about 300,000 tons produced last year. "We are most likely to get the highest tonnage since 1962, when wheat was first introduced to Zimbabwe. A lot of countries are facing shortages, but the opposite is happening in Zimbabwe," Haritatos said.

Russia, NATO hold nuclear drills as Ukraine villages pounded

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—NATO and Russia's military alike staged planned annual nuclear exercises Wednesday as the Russian president repeated the unfounded claim that Ukraine plans to set off a radioactive "dirty bomb." On the battlefront, Russian forces pounded more than 40 Ukrainian villages over the past day.

Russian President Vladimir Putin remotely monitored the drills of his strategic nuclear forces, which involved multiple practice launches of ballistic and cruise missiles in a show of force. Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu reported to Putin that the exercise simulated a "massive nuclear strike" retaliating for a nuclear attack on Russia.

The Biden administration said Russia provided advance notice of the annual drills. NATO is carrying out its own long-planned annual nuclear exercises in northwestern Europe.

Without providing any evidence, in remarks carried by Russian TV, Putin said Ukraine plans to "use a so-called 'dirty bomb' as a provocation" and contended the United States was using Ukraine as a "battering ram" against Russia and its regional allies, turning the country into a "testing ground for military-biological experiments." It was the first time Putin himself made the unsubstantiated dirty bomb allegation, which his officials have been repeating since last week.

Ukraine and its Western allies have denied the claims and contend that Russia, facing setbacks on the battlefield, might itself try to detonate a "dirty bomb"—which uses explosives to scatter radioactive waste to sow terror — or go further and tap its vast nuclear weapon arsenal.

Shoigu on Wednesday called his counterparts from India and China to share Moscow's concern about "possible Ukrainian provocations involving a 'dirty bomb,'" according to the Russian Defense Ministry.

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

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The Marianas

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority hereby gives notice that a Special Board of Directors Meeting will be held on Monday, October 31, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. at the MVA Conference Room.

MEETING AGENDA

1) **Preliminary Matters**
   a. Call to Order
   b. Roll Call
   c. Adoption of Agenda
2) **Public Comments**
3) **New Business**
   a. Ratification – Korea Voucher Program
   b. Professional Services Request
4) **Executive Session**
5) **Miscellaneous/Announcements**
   a. Next Regular Board Meeting
6) **Adjournment**

/s/Viola Alepuyo
Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors

Off The Wall

Nigeria city celebrates its twins with annual festival

AP

Twins Oladapo Taiwo, left, and Oladapo Kehinde, 21, pose for photographs holding relative's twins during the annual twins festival in Igbo-Ora South west Nigeria, Saturday, Oct. 8, 2022.

IGBO-ORA, Nigeria (AP)—Twins appear to be unusually abundant in Nigeria's southwestern city of Igbo-Ora.

Nearly every family here has twins or other multiple births, says local chief Jimoh Titiloye.

For the past 12 years, the community has organized an annual festival to celebrate twins. This year's event, held earlier this month, included more than 1,000 pairs of twins and drew participants from as far away as France, organizers said.

There is no proven scientific explanation for the high rate of twins in Igbo-Ora, a city of at least 200,000 people 135 kilometers (83 miles) south of Nigeria's largest city, Lagos. But many in Igbo-Ora believe it can be traced to women's diets. Alake Olawunmi, a mother of twins, attributes it to a local delicacy called amala which is made from yam flour.

John Ofem, a gynecologist based in the capital, Abuja, says it very well could be "that there are things they eat there that have a high level of certain hormones that now result in what we call multiple ovulation."

While that could explain the higher-than-normal rate of fraternal twins in Igbo-Ora, the city also has a significant number of identical twins. Those result instead from a single fertilized egg that divides into two—not because of hyperovulation.

Taiwo Ojeniyi, a Nigerian student, said he attended the festival with his twin brother "to celebrate the uniqueness" of multiple births.

"We cherish twins while in some parts of the world, they condemn twins," he said. "It is a blessing from God."

'Swift-footed lizard' is MA state dinosaur

BOSTON (AP)—A "swift-footed lizard" that lived millions of years ago in what is now Massachusetts has been named the state's official dinosaur under legislation signed into law Wednesday by Gov. Charlie Baker.

Podokesaurus holyokensis received more than 60% of the roughly 35,000 votes cast in a social media campaign initiated early last year by state Rep. Jack Lewis, beating out another dinosaur that was also discovered in the state.

"If I think about my own childhood ... the thing that got me interested in science in the first place was dinosaurs," the Republican governor said at the signing ceremony at the Museum of Science in Boston, with some of the state's leading paleontologists standing behind him. "And the main reason they got me interested is because of their majesty, and their ferocity and their almost alien-being status. As a kid, they just created wonder."

AP

This is an artist's rendering of the dinosaur Podokesaurus holyokensis, which lived millions of years ago in what is now Massachusetts.

Lewis came up with the idea of a state dinosaur while trying to find engaging projects for the Cub Scout den he led during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The project did not just get people involved in science, but also taught them about the legislative process, the Framingham Democrat said.

Podokesaurus holyokensis, which means "swift-footed lizard of Holyoke," was discovered in western Massachusetts in 1910 by Mount Holyoke College professor Mignon Talbot, "the first woman to find, discover, name and describe a dinosaur," Lewis said.

"Hopefully if this project inspires just a couple young girls to grow up and explore paleontology, it would have been all worth it," he said.

The species was 3 to 6 feet (around 1 to 2 meters) in length, weighed approximately 90 pounds (40 kilograms), and was estimated to run 9 to 12 mph (14 to 19 kph), Lewis has said.

Baker called the creature "a tough, spunky underdog from Holyoke."

About a dozen other states also have official state dinosaurs, Lewis said.

Science & Technology

Are you a mosquito magnet? Maybe it's your smell—study

NEW YORK (AP)—A new study finds that some people really are "mosquito magnets" and it probably has to do with the way they smell.

The researchers found that people who are most attractive to mosquitoes produce a lot of certain chemicals on their skin that are tied to smell. And bad news for mosquito magnets: The bloodsuckers stay loyal to their favorites over time.

"If you have high levels of this stuff on your skin, you're going to be the one at the picnic getting all the bites," said study author Leslie Vosshall, a neurobiologist at Rockefeller University in New York.

There's a lot of folklore about who gets bitten more but many claims aren't backed up with strong evidence, said Vosshall.

To put mosquito magnetism to the test, the researchers designed an experiment pitting people's scents against each other, explained study author Maria Elena De Obaldia. Their findings were published Tuesday in the journal Cell.

They asked 64 volunteers from the university and nearby to wear nylon stockings around their forearms to pick up their skin smells. The stockings were put in separate traps at the end of a long tube, then dozens of mosquitos were released.

"They would basically swarm to the most attractive subjects," De Obaldia said. "It became very obvious right away."

Scientists held a round-robin tournament and ended up with a striking gap: The biggest mosquito magnet was around 100 times more attractive to the mosquitoes than the last place finisher.

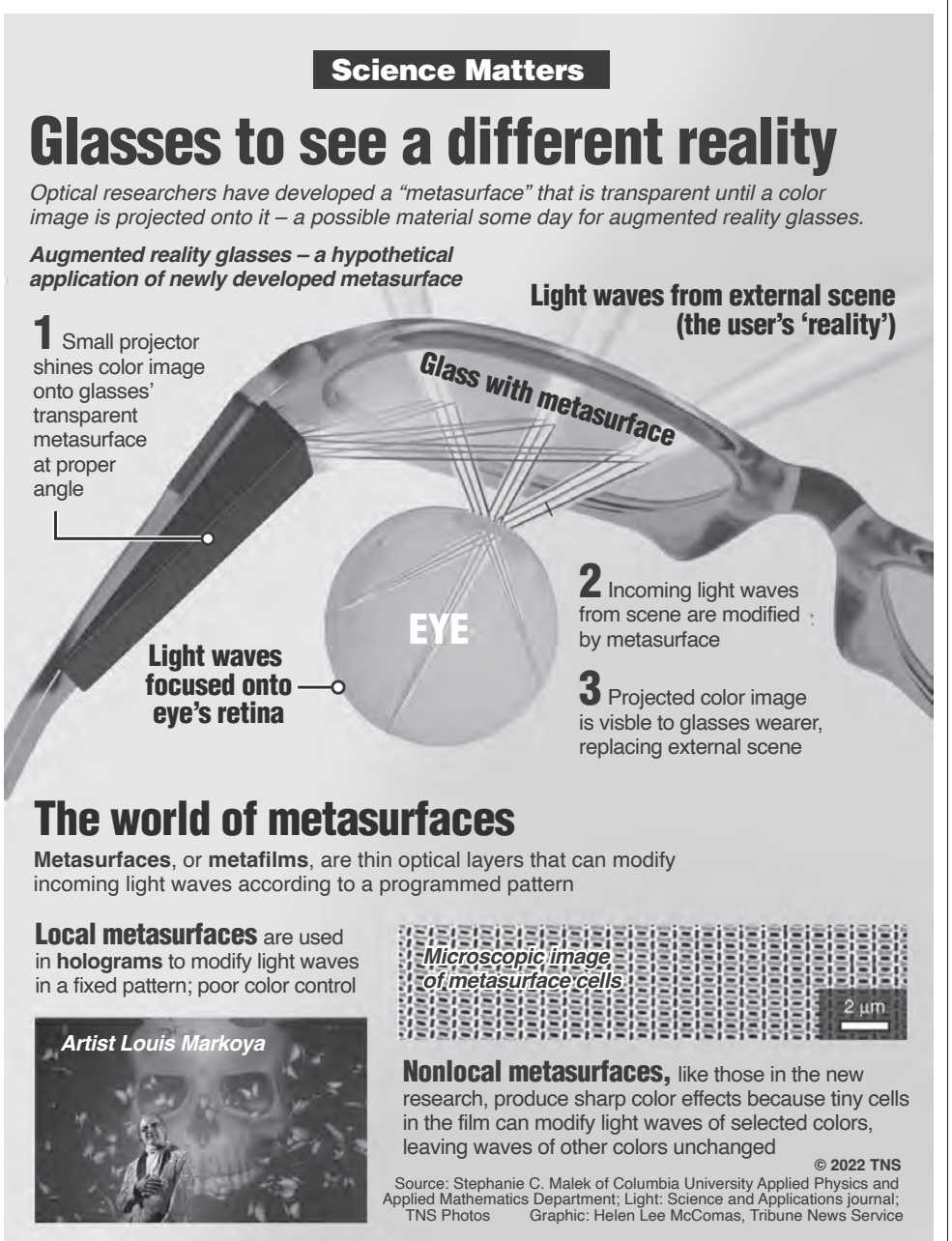
The experiment used the Aedes aegypti mosquito that spreads diseases like yellow fever, Zika and dengue. Vosshall said she'd expect similar results from other kinds, but would need more research to confirm.

By testing the same people over multiple years, the study showed that these big differences stick around, said Matt DeGennaro, a neurogeneticist at Florida International University who was not involved with the research.

"Mosquito magnets seem to remain mosquito magnets," DeGennaro said.

Out of the favorites, the researchers found a common factor: Mosquito magnets had high levels of certain acids on their skin. These "greasy molecules" are part of the skin's natural moisturizing layer, and people produce them in different amounts, Vosshall said. The healthy bacteria that live on the skin eat up these acids and produce part of our skin's odor profile, she said.

You can't get rid of these acids without damaging your skin health too, said Vosshall, who is paid by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and serves as its chief scientific officer. The institute also supports The Associated Press' Health and Science Department.


Science Matters
Glasses to see a different reality
Optical researchers have developed a "metasurface" that is transparent until a color image is projected onto it – a possible material some day for augmented reality glasses.
Augmented reality glasses – a hypothetical application of newly developed metasurface
Light waves from external scene (the user's 'reality')
1 Small projector shines color image onto glasses' transparent metasurface at proper angle
Glass with metasurface
EYE
2 Incoming light waves from scene are modified by metasurface
3 Projected color image is visble to glasses wearer, replacing external scene
Light waves focused onto eye's retina
The world of metasurfaces
Metasurfaces, or metafilms, are thin optical layers that can modify incoming light waves according to a programmed pattern
Local metasurfaces are used in holograms to modify light waves in a fixed pattern; poor color control
Microscopic image of metasurface cells
2 µm
Artist Louis Markoya
Nonlocal metasurfaces, like those in the new research, produce sharp color effects because tiny cells in the film can modify light waves of selected colors, leaving waves of other colors unchanged
© 2022 TNS
Source: Stephanie C. Malek of Columbia University Applied Physics and Applied Mathematics Department; Light: Science and Applications journal; TNS Photos
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service

Life & Style

Ye kicked out of Skechers' headquarters in California

MANHATTAN BEACH, Calif. (AP)—The rapper formerly known as Kanye West was escorted out of the California-based headquarters of athletic shoemaker Skechers after he showed up unannounced Wednesday, a day after Adidas ended its partnership with the artist following his antisemitic remarks.

The Grammy winner, who legally changed his name to Ye, "arrived unannounced and without invitation" at Skechers corporate headquarters in Manhattan Beach, southwest of Los Angeles, the company said.

"Considering Ye was engaged in unauthorized filming, two Skechers executives escorted him and his party from the building after a brief conversation," according to a company statement.

"Skechers is not considering and has no intention of working with West," the company said. "We condemn his recent divisive remarks and do not tolerate antisemitism or any other form of hate speech."

The rapper's Instagram account—which had been suspended over antisemitic comments—resumed posting Tuesday night. A new message showing a screen grab of a text message that appeared to be from a contact at a high-profile law firm spelled out when Ye could resume making apparel and new shoe designs.

Details of the message could not be verified; email messages sent to representatives for Ye weren't immediately returned.

AP

Rapper Kanye West speaks during a meeting in the Oval Office of the White House with President Donald Trump, Thursday, Oct. 11, 2018, in Washington.

For weeks, Ye has made antisemitic comments in interviews and social media, including a Twitter post earlier this month that he would soon go "death con 3 on JEWISH PEOPLE," an apparent reference to the U.S. defense readiness condition scale known as DEFCON. His posts led to his suspension from both Twitter and Instagram.

He apologized for the tweet on Monday.

On Tuesday, sportswear manufacturer Adidas announced that it was ending a partnership with Ye that helped make him a billionaire, saying it doesn't tolerate antisemitism and hate speech.

The German sneaker giant said it expected that the decision to immediately stop production of its Yeezy products would cause a hit to its net income of up to 250 million euros ($246 million).

The company had stuck with Ye through other controversies after he suggested slavery was a choice and called the COVID-19 vaccine the "mark of the beast."

Other companies also have announced they were cutting ties with Ye, including Foot Locker, Gap, TJ Maxx, JPMorgan Chase bank and Vogue magazine. An MRC documentary about him was also scrapped.

Investigators raid home of Russian celeb Ksenia Sobchak

MOSCOW (AP)—Russian investigators on Wednesday raided the home of Ksenia Sobchak, the glamourous daughter of Russian President Vladimir Putin's one-time boss, in a move that has sent shockwaves through the country's political scene.

Sobchak, a 40-year-old TV star, has often been critical of Putin, but many Russian opposition figures have accused her of serving the Kremlin's agenda. In 2018, she became a liberal challenger in Russia's presidential election, finishing a distant fourth with about 1.7% of the vote in what her critics described as a Kremlin effort to add a democratic veneer to Putin's sweeping re-election.

Investigators said that the search at Sobchak's luxury home in a prestigious Moscow suburb was part of a probe into alleged wrongdoing by her media director, Kirill Sukhanov, who was arrested on charges of extortion.

Sobchak on Tuesday rejected the accusations against Sukhanov as "ravings and nonsense" and described his arrest as part of the authorities' efforts to stifle independent media.

The state Tass and RIA-Novosti news agencies said that Sobchak had fled Russia. Tass claimed she had bought tickets to Dubai and Turkey to mislead the authorities but eventually left for Belarus, from where she moved to Lithuania. The reports claimed that investigators suspected Sobchak of being involved in the extortion scheme along with her media director and alleged that a warrant was issued for her arrest.

Tass also cited information from the probe indicating that Sergei Chemezov, a long time Putin associate who heads the state Rostec corporation, a conglomerate controlling Russian aviation industries and other high-tech assets, was the victim of alleged extortion.

The claims couldn't be independently confirmed. Sobchak hasn't commented on the allegations and her whereabouts were unknown.

Sobchak has extensive contacts among Russia's rich and powerful, and the search of her home topped domestic news.

Thai transgender activist buys Miss Universe org for $20M

BANGKOK (AP)—A Thai business tycoon and transgender activist has purchased the Miss Universe Organization for $20 million, her company announced Wednesday.

Chakrapong "Anne" Chakrajutathib, who controls JKN Global Group Public Co. Ltd., is a celebrity in Thailand who has starred in reality shows and is outspoken about being a transgender woman. She helped establish a nonprofit group, Life Inspired For Transsexual Foundation, to promote trans rights.

JKN said it acquired the rights to the Miss Universe pageant from IMG Worldwide LLC, a sports, talent and events marketing company which has held the Miss Universe Organization since 2015. Former U.S. President Donald Trump was part owner of the pageant rights from 1996 until IMG's purchase.

JKN said it has established a subsidiary in the United States, JKN Metaverse Inc., to own the Miss Universe Organization. The Miss Universe pageant is broadcast in 165 countries, according to IMG.

In a statement, Chakrapong described the purchase as "a strong, strategic addition to our portfolio." JKN, which is involved in content distribution, beverages, food supplements, beauty and consumer products, said the Miss Universe name will be used to promote its consumer products.

A profile of Chakrapong in the Bangkok Post newspaper earlier this year said in her youth, she studied at an all-male school where she was harassed for identifying as female. After attaining financial success, she spent 40 million baht ($1 million) on sex reassignment surgery and other procedures, the newspaper reported.

While Thailand enjoys a positive international reputation when it comes to the rights and lifestyles of LGBTQ communities, the absence of a procedure for transgender people to change their legal gender, coupled with insufficient legal protections and social stigma, limits transgender people's access to services and exposes them to daily indignities, New York-based Human Rights Watch said in a report last year.

Brother's angry outbursts hit at home and at work

DEAR ABBY: I have a brother I can't seem to get along with anymore. Sometimes he's OK, but most of the time he's not. I visited him recently for a cookout, and it wasn't good. He got into an argument with his wife, shattered a glass, tried to fight me out of the blue, and talked about extremist topics —all in front of his young, impressionable kids. I worry about his three boys and want to have a serious talk with him about getting some therapy.

The problem is, we work together. Although we have different shifts, I see him and his team almost daily at meetings, and our teams are already polarized. How can I confront him without making our careers suffer? He is not receptive to confrontation, and it may cause a serious rift.

FRUSTRATED BROTHER IN THE SOUTH

DEAR BROTHER: Could your brother have a drinking or drug problem that would account for his volatility, or has he always been this way? Political differences are one thing; shattering a glass and becoming violent during something as mundane as a cookout is worrisome. Have you talked to his wife about how long this has been going on? His behavior could present a danger to her and the kids.

Because there are serious differences between your team and his at work, the person who should logically "referee" is your supervisor or boss; what's going on isn't healthy for the business. Your brother is entitled to his political opinions, but if he's a danger to others, there needs to be an intervention. If he raises a fist to you or his family, the police should be called.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: This woman keeps texting my husband. Her husband died last year, and she has been staying in contact with my husband. I know he initiates the messaging most of the time. He also deletes her messages.

Our husbands grew up together but kept in touch only twice a year. They would call each other on their birthdays. Now this woman and my husband text every day, and you know what that is all about. She's lonely, and he thinks he needs to "console" her.

Well, Abby, I don't like it! I can't stop it. If I say anything, he gets defensive. To me, that's a sign of guilt, and his deleting the messages is another sign of guilt. He has to have his ego stroked. He's a classic narcissist, and it's his way or the highway. I'm desperate for answers. Please help.

ANGRY IN THE EAST

DEAR ANGRY: The widow keeps texting your husband because he is encouraging it. I agree with you that the conversations have gone beyond "condolences," or he wouldn't delete the messages. In a situation like this it's important you take steps to protect your investment in your marriage.

Gather all of the financial information you can and have a private chat with a lawyer about what your rights are as a wife in the state in which you live. Once you have done that, confront your narcissistic spouse and tell him you feel what's going on is a threat to your marriage.

Tell him you want it stopped immediately, and the two of you must get marriage counseling either with your religious adviser or a licensed marriage and family therapist. Perhaps once he realizes there could be a stiff price to pay for his "condolences," he may see the light.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

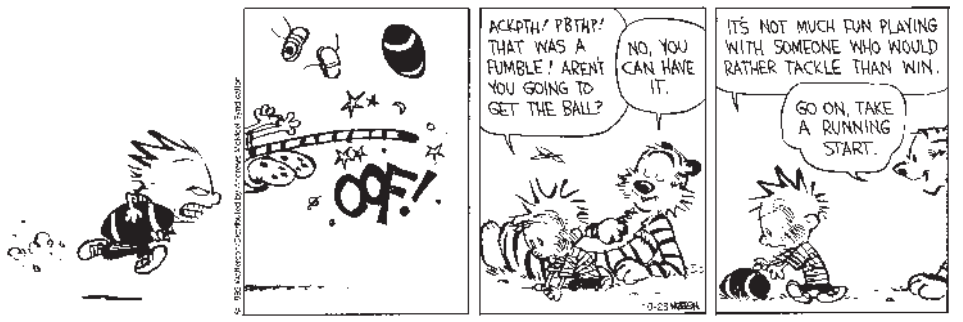
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

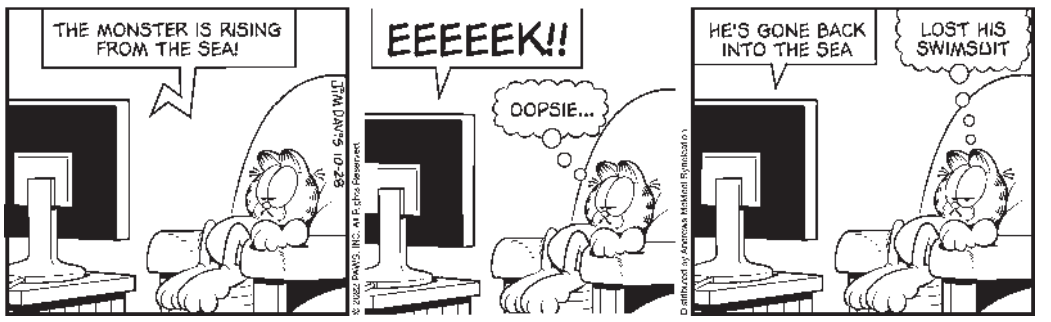
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


OOF!
ACKPTH! PBTHP! THAT WAS A FUMBLE! AREN'T YOU GOING TO GET THE BALL?
NO, YOU CAN HAVE IT.
IT'S NOT MUCH FUN PLAYING WITH SOMEONE WHO WOULD RATHER TACKLE THAN WIN.
GO ON, TAKE A RUNNING START.

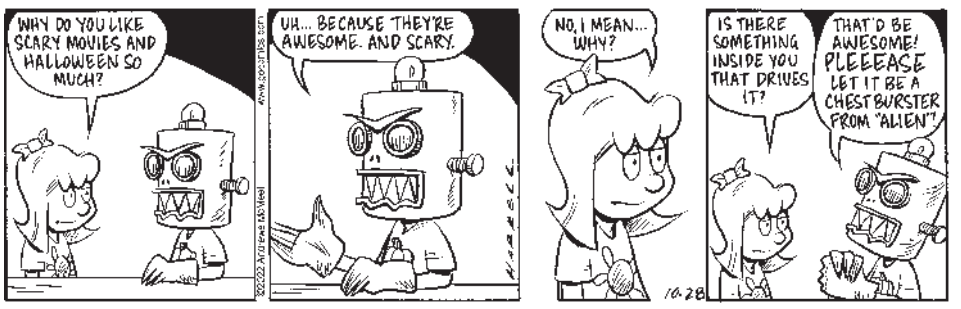
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WHY DO YOU LIKE SCARY MOVIES AND HALLOWEEN SO MUCH?
UH... BECAUSE THEY'RE AWESOME. AND SCARY.
NO, I MEAN... WHY?
IS THERE SOMETHING INSIDE YOU THAT DRIVES IT?
THAT'D BE AWESOME! PLEEEASE LET IT BE A CHEST BURSTER FROM "ALIEN"!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

ENO HAS A KNIFE! RUN! RUN LIKE YOU'VE NEVER RUN BEFORE!!
FANG, HAVE YOU SEEN THE PUMPKIN?
PUMPKIN? COULD YOU DESCRIBE IT?
NEVER MIND. HERE IT IS ON THE PORCH.
SLAP

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Dazzle
4 Too
8 Pitcher
12 Film director DuVernay
13 Slugger Sammy
14 MRI forerunner
15 Became depleted
17 Literary Jane
18 Accordion features
19 English channel?
21 Sock part
22 List
26 Lazy —
29 Office machine
30 Greek H
31 Paris airport
32 — Tin Tin
33 Tub session
34 Rx overseer
35 Make lace
36 Comes to
37 Colorful season
39 Part of LGBTQ
40 Photo, for short
41 Beethoven's Third
45 Jostle
48 Guatemalan's neighbor
50 Oklahoma tribe
51 Emmy-winner Falco
52 Chemical suffix
53 Den denizen
54 Viewed
55 Stitch

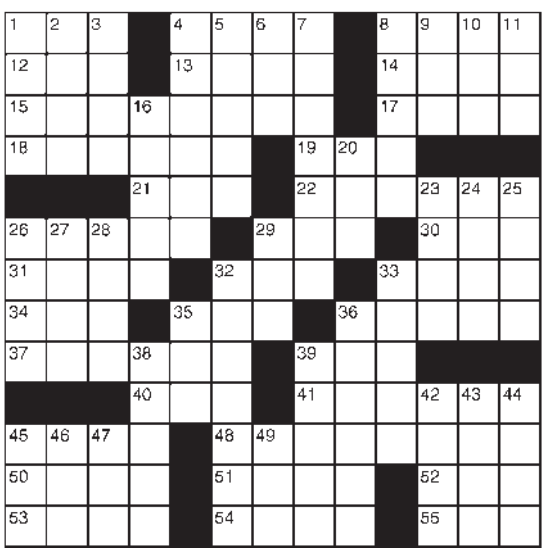
DOWN

1 Buckle
2 Track shape
3 Diminish
4 Actor Kutcher
5 Unfettered
6 Old map letters
7 Muffin ingredient
8 Biz bigwigs
9 Like some humor
10 Corn unit
11 Reuben bread
16 Skewered Thai recipe
20 Jury enclosure
23 Ship wood
24 Diminutive suffix
25 Stadium cheers
26 Couch
27 Pakistan's language
28 Blind part
29 In shape
32 Cattle farms
33 Marshy inlet
35 Texter's "Enough!"
36 Prison head
38 Top
39 Bottled spirit?
42 Nest egg choices
43 Walking stick
44 From the start
45 Short do
46 Multipurpose truck
47 Extinct bird
49 Praise in verse

Solution time: 25 mins.

A	G	R	A		J	A	W	S		B	T	S
C	I	A	N		O	M	I	T		O	O	O
D	E	C	K	C	H	A	I	R		O	N	O
C	E	Y	L	O	N			A	R	K	I	N
			Γ	D		Γ	N	D	O	Γ		
P	F	C	S		M	A	O		B	A	R	Y
G	A	L			I	T	O			I	R	E
A	F	C	S		R	J	N		B	R	A	T
		A	F	S	O	P		G	O			
S	O	N	I	C			J	E	T	L	A	G
P	T	A		A	N	G	E	L	H	A	I	R
R	O	I		D	O	M	E		C	Z	R	A
Y	E	R		S	T	A	R		R	E	E	F

Yesterday's answer 10-28



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Nolan Gould, 24; Julia Roberts, 55; Bill Gates, 67; Annie Potts, 70.

Happy Birthday: Reward yourself. Plan to do something this year that makes you happy. Refuse to let negativity stand between you and what you desire most. Speak up, ask and you shall find out how to make your life better and your relationships more meaningful. Work toward a happy home life, an affordable lifestyle and less stress. Take the initiative and do things for yourself. Your numbers are 6, 14, 23, 27, 31, 35, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Follow the money and refuse to let anyone talk you into something you don't need or want. Use your intelligence to devise a plan to save money that will make you a hero among your peers. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Be careful with your cash. Emotional spending won't make you feel better when debt mounts. Take a course in money management or find a way to cut your overhead and ease stress. Pay attention to your health and well-being. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Channel your energy and enthusiasm into something constructive. Don't waste time getting all worked up over something you cannot change. Take care of unfinished business before you move on to something more pleasurable. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Pampering will lift spirits and make you feel good about who you are and how you look. By spending time with someone of interest, you'll discover pastimes that put a smile on your face. Make self-improvement your thing. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Kick back with friends or a group who shares your concerns. What you do to contribute will bring you closer to the life you want to live. Choose participation over leaving the work to others. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Refuse to fold under pressure. Use your charm and drive to get things done and gain support. You will make a difference in how others reach out and help. Choose a peaceful and playful way to get your way. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Look for excitement, and you'll find some. A day trip, educational pursuit or conversation with someone who makes you think about what's possible will pay off. Make an attempt to ensure you get a seat at the table to voice your opinion. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Be part of the solution, not the problem. Stand up and be counted, voice your opinion and be the one to make a difference. Address debt and other issues dragging you down. Adjust to make life easier and more affordable. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Keep working toward your goal, regardless of temptation or interference. Refuse to let someone sidetrack you with false information. Share with those you know and trust. Put your energy where it counts. Don't pay for someone else's mistake. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Keep your thoughts to yourself until you have all the facts. Getting into an argument won't solve anything. Do something that brings you joy. A change at home that adds comfort, convenience or efficiency is encouraged. Profess your love to someone special. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Stick to the facts and shed light on a situation that makes you uncomfortable. Avoid places that risk your health or doing things that may result in injury. Don't let anyone coerce you into something scandalous. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Refuse to let anger surface. Bide your time, take notes and verify facts before you take on someone looking for a fight. Pay more attention to personal growth, looking your best and caring for money matters. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are empathetic, insightful and forceful. You are helpful and resilient.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	6	4				7	1	
					7			
		5		3		8		
	1		3		5			
		7				2		
			1		8		4	
		8		6		3		
			5					
	3	2				9	7	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 10/28

Sudoku is a number -placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the number s 1 to 9 in the em pty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number onl y once. The difficulty level of the Concep tis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesturday Answer

7	4	3	5	6	9	8	2	1
5	2	9	8	4	1	6	3	7
8	6	1	3	7	2	4	5	9
6	3	8	1	5	4	7	9	2
1	5	2	7	9	8	3	6	4
9	7	4	6	2	3	5	1	8
3	1	6	9	8	7	2	4	5
4	9	7	2	3	5	1	8	6
2	8	5	4	1	6	9	7	3

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

DRAMA CLASSES Solution: 8 letters

A	C	S	S	E	S	S	A	L	C	T	I	K	S	N
E	R	O	E	M	U	S	I	C	A	L	O	P	U	O
M	E	N	C	O	S	T	U	M	E	D	U	L	S	I
E	A	G	N	I	M	I	T	C	E	O	B	B	P	T
H	T	H	E	L	O	R	N	S	R	O	L	R	E	A
T	E	C	I	O	V	A	I	G	D	M	O	O	N	S
C	H	E	D	U	D	V	N	Y	L	J	D	O	S	R
A	I	E	U	T	O	I	L	I	E	Y	I	T	Ⓔ	E
T	A	P	A	R	T	A	F	C	A	T	A	E	Ⓝ	V
N	C	S	P	T	N	S	T	L	O	G	N	S	Ⓞ	N
O	T	M	E	G	E	I	P	M	E	E	D	T	Ⓣ	O
C	I	S	U	N	O	R	E	T	C	A	R	A	H	C
E	N	A	I	N	O	O	E	S	R	A	E	H	E	R
Y	G	L	I	P	P	O	D	I	R	E	C	T	O	R
E	U	G	O	L	O	N	O	M	H	T	Y	H	R	N

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Acting, Audience, Body Language, Character, Classes, Club, Conversation, Costume, Create, Dance, Director, Emotion, Eye Contact, Film, Groups, Improvise, Lines, Monologue, Mood, Musical, Play, Plot, Poem, Projection, Prop, Read, Rehearse, Rhythm, Role, Scene, Setting, Skit, Solo, Song, Speech, Stage, Suspense, Test, Theater, Theme, Timing, Tone, Voice

Yesterday's Answer: Drill

To purchase **WONDERWORD** books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

Jokic, Nuggets keep Lakers winless with 110-99 victory

DENVER (AP)—A LeBron James-led team doesn't begin 0-4 often. Not since his rookie season has one of his teams stumbled out of the starting gate quite like this.

"It's a new system. It's a new group of guys together," James explained. "We're still trying to get familiar with one another."

Nikola Jokic had 31 points and 13 rebounds, Jamal Murray hit a big 3-pointer and the Denver Nuggets kept the Los Angeles Lakers winless with a 110-99 victory Wednesday night.

The Lakers remain in the company of Orlando and Sacramento as the only teams yet to win this season.

"We're four games and it sucks to lose, but we have 78 games left," new Lakers coach Darvin Ham said. "It's plenty of time for us to right the ship. And it starts now."

Trailing by two moments into the second half, the Nuggets went on a 29-9 to grab control. The Lakers worked their way back and cut it to single digits in the fourth, but Murray hit a 3-pointer — his only one in seven attempts — for some breathing room.

Anthony Davis, dealing with lower back tightness, had 22 points and 14 rebounds for Los Angeles. LeBron James had 19 points to run his double-digit streak to 1,100 games. Russell Westbrook was held out to rest a sore left hamstring.

Jokic finished an assist shy of a triple-double. But it was the 31 points that caught Bruce Brown by surprise. He had no idea the back-to-back MVP erupted for that many.

"It was a quiet 31," cracked Brown, who finished with 18 points, including four 3-pointers. "Nobody can guard him."

For his big night, Jokic looks no further than James, who motivated him to keep laser focused.

"LeBron is the best player on the planet," Jokic said. "I like to compete with the best."

Struggling with his long-range jumper, Murray found his touch in close and finished with 13 points. He showed flashes of his explosiveness as he works his way back from a knee injury. He also received an early pep talk from coach Michael Malone.

"I just walked over to him in the huddle, gave him a big hug and said, 'Hey, man, big picture. I believe in you. I love you. I know who you are, and I know where you're going to be at some point,'" Malone said.

Late in the third quarter, the Nuggets saw Kentavious Caldwell-Pope turn his left ankle on a layup and leave for the locker room. He had 13 points.

It's been a tough start for Lakers, who entered the game as the worst-shooting squad in the NBA. They shot 44.4% from the field against Denver.

It's also been a tough beginning for Ham, the player-turned-coach who was brought on board over the summer after serving as an assistant in Milwaukee. Ham picked up a technical in the fourth quarter for arguing a call.

"Not really about any other team right now, scouts or schemes — just going out there and doing it for 48 minutes to get a win," Davis said. "Whatever we've got to do. That's the first step. We can build on that."

AP

Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James heads to the bench in the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Denver Nuggets Wednesday, Oct. 26, 2022, in Denver.

Bucks 110, Nets 99

In Milwaukee, Giannis Antetokounmpo had 43 points, 14 rebounds and five assists and Milwaukee went on a lopsided run after Brooklyn coach Steve Nash was ejected in the third quarter.

Antetokounmpo scored 34 points in the second half as the Bucks outscored the Nets 67-44 over the final two periods. After shooting just 3 of 10 in the first half, Antetokounmpo went 13 of 15 in the second half. He was following up a Saturday performance in which he scored 44 points and shot 17 of 21 in a 125-105 rout of the Houston Rockets, marking just the fifth time in NBA history a player had scored at least 44 points while playing less than 28 minutes.

Bobby Portis had 20 points and 11 rebounds for Milwaukee, and Jrue Holiday added 15 points.

Kevin Durant scored 33 points for Brooklyn. Kyrie Irving had 27,

Nash was ejected for the first time as Nets coach since taking over at the start of the 2020-21 season. Nash was ejected twice during his 18-season playing career.

Hawks 118, Pistons 113

In Detroit, Trae Young scored 35 points and Atlanta beat Detroit to open a two-game set at Little Caesars Arena.

The team will meet again Friday night.

John Collins added 19 points, 10 rebounds and four blocks, and De'Andre Hunter had 17 points to help the Hawks improve to 3-1.

Bojan Bogdanovic scored 33 points for Detroit. The Pistons have lost four in a row after an opening victory. Cade Cunningham added 26 points, seven rebounds and six assists, but had seven turnovers.

Raptors 119, 76ers 109

Im Toronto, Pascal Siakam scored 20 points and matched his career high with 13 assists, Gary Trent Jr. scored a season-high 27 points and Toronto beat Philadelphia.

Joel Embiid and Tyrese Maxey each scored 31 points and James Harden had 18 for Philadelphia. The 76ers lost for the fourth time in five games.

The 76ers beat the Raptors in six games to win their first-round playoff series last spring. The teams meet in Toronto again Friday night.

Jazz 109, Rockets 101

In Salt Lake City, Lauri Markkanen had 24 points and eight rebounds to help Utah beat Houston.

Jordan Clarkson scored 20 points — hitting five 3-pointers — and had six assists for Utah. Talen Horton-Tucker and Malik Beasley added in 14 points apiece.

Kevin Porter, Jr had 24 points and five assists for Houston. Jalen Green added 17 points and seven rebounds and Eric Gordon had 16 points.

Cavaliers 103, Magic 92

In Cleveland, Evan Mobley scored a season-high 22 points, Jarrett Allen had 18 points and 16 rebounds and Cleveland beat Orlando.

Donovan Mitchell added 14 points and eight assists for Cleveland. The Cavaliers have won three in a row after dropping their opener at Toronto.

Top overall draft pick Paolo Banchero had 29 points, eight rebounds and four assists for Orlando, extending his streak of 20-plus point games to begin his career to five. Orlando is the lone team without a victory in the Eastern Conference.

Knicks 134, Hornets 131, OT

In New York, Jalen Brunson scored 27 points, hitting the go-ahead basket in overtime, and New York beat Charlotte.

Brunson also had 13 assists and seven rebounds. RJ Barrett scored 22 points, and Julius Randle had 17 for New York, at 3-1 off to its best start in 10 years.

Gordon Hayward led Charlotte with 21 points. PJ Washington, Kelly Oubre Jr. and Jalen McDaniels each had 17.

Heat 119, Trail Blazers 98

In Portland, Ore., Bam Adebayo scored 18 points and Miami ended Portland's season-opening winning streak at four.

Damian Lillard had 22 points for Portland when he came up limping with just over five minutes to go in the third quarter and headed straight for the locker room. He did not return and the Blazers said he had a right calf strain.

Kyle Lowry and Jimmy Butler each had 17 points for the Heat.

The Trail Blazers were the last remaining undefeated team in the Western Conference.

Timberwolves 134, Spurs 122

In Minneapolis, Anthony Edwards scored 34 points, reserve guard Jaylen Nowell added 23 and Minnesota beat San Antonio.

Karl-Anthony Towns added 21 points to help Minnesota bounce back after a 115-106 loss to San Antonio at home Monday night.

Keldon Johnson had 27 points for the Spurs.

Bulls 124, Pacers 109

In Chicago, Zach LaVine scored 28 points, including a key 3-pointer early in the fourth quarter in Chicago's victory over Indiana.

DeMar DeRozan had 17 points to move within seven points of becoming the 50th player in NBA history to reach 20,000.

Buddy Hield led Indiana with 24 points.

NBA, NBPA seeking more respectful tone at all levels of game

NEW YORK (AP)—The NBA and National Basketball Players Association announced a plan Tuesday to encourage more respectful behavior within basketball, even at youth levels.

Many groups — including the National Basketball Coaches Association, the National Basketball Referees Association and USA Basketball — are also involved with the "Respect for the Game" initiative.

The NBA has been using that term with players for nearly two decades, hoping for more positive interactions between players and referees.

In June, the NBA's referees condemned violent acts toward officials in other sports, including a coach punching a 72-year-old umpire at a youth baseball game in New Jersey — the umpire needed surgery for a jaw injury — and the death of a soccer official in El Salvador who was attacked after ejecting a player from an amateur match. Many referee groups have also condemned instances of fans or parents losing control of emotions during games.

"Respect and dignity are core values of both the NBA and the NBPA," NBA Commissioner Adam Silver and NBPA Executive Director Tamika Tremaglio said in a joint statement. "With the start of a new NBA season, we are reaffirming our commitment to promoting healthy and courteous relationships among players, coaches, referees, fans and parents throughout the game."

The NBA and the NBPA said they will work with youth basketball organizations to have "Respect for the Game" included in their leagues. Jr. NBA events will now include participants taking a pledge to respect others and the game, the league said.

The NBA's "Respect for the Game" policy was introduced in 2006.

4 of 374 results

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NBA, NBPA seeking more respectful tone at all levels of game

BC-BKN--NBA-Behavior Initiative

Oct 26, 2022 2:20 AM - 275 words

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The NBA's "Respect for the Game" policy was introduced in 2006.

No US-born Black players on expected World Series rosters

By BEN WALKER
AP BASEBALL WRITER

AP

Philadelphia Phillies celebrate after winning the baseball NL Championship Series in Game 5 against the San Diego Padres on Sunday, Oct. 23, 2022, in Philadelphia.

Looking around Memorial Stadium before Game 1 of the 1983 World Series, Philadelphia Phillies star Gary Matthews saw a lot of Black talent.

Joe Morgan. Eddie Murray. Garry Maddox. Ken Singleton. Al Bumbry. Disco Dan Ford. And plenty more that night in Baltimore.

"There were quite a few of us," Matthews recalled.

When fans watch the Houston Astros and Phillies line up this week to begin the Fall Classic, it will be a much different picture.

To be sure, Houston's Jose Altuve and Philadelphia's Jean Segura are among scores of Latin players helping keep big league rosters diverse.

But for the first time since 1950, shortly after Jackie Robinson broke the Major League Baseball color barrier, there project to be no U.S.-born Black players in this World Series.

Zero.

"That is eye opening," said Bob Kendrick, president of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas City, Missouri. "It is somewhat startling that two cities that have high African American populations, there's not a single Black player."

"It lets us know there's obviously a lot of work to be done to create opportunities for Black kids to pursue their dream at the highest level," he said.

Robinson debuted in 1947 with the Brooklyn Dodgers and played in the World Series that year. Since then, the 1950 matchup between the New York Yankees and Phillies has been the only World Series without a Black player.

Houston and Philadelphia will announce their 26-man rosters several hours before Game 1 on Friday night at Minute Maid Park, where Dusty Baker, a Black outfielder for the 1981 champion Los Angeles Dodgers, manages the Astros.

Starting in 1954 when Willie Mays and the New York Giants played against Larry Doby and Cleveland, every single team to reach the World Series had at least one U.S.-born Black player until the 2005 Astros did not.

During that half-century, Black greats such as Hank Aaron, Barry Bonds, Lou Brock, Bob Gibson, Rickey Henderson and Frank Robinson commanded the October stage. In 1979 alone, Willie Stargell and Dave Parker were among 10 Black players on the "We Are Family" Pittsburgh Pirates champions.

For much of that time, baseball was clearly the dominant game in the United States, the national pastime. Over the years, as basketball and football increased in popularity, baseball became more expensive with an emphasis on travel teams and elite showcases.

"Kids started shifting to other sports," Matthews said.

One of Matthews' sons, Gary Jr., was an All-Star outfielder. Another son works in the commissioner's office with diversity programs.

By 2020, when the Dodgers beat Tampa Bay, Los Angeles star Mookie Betts was the only Black player in the World Series.

At the All-Star Game this summer at Dodger Stadium, Betts wore a T-shirt with the message: "We need more Black people at the stadium."

But on the field this weekend, despite encouraging indicators and multi-layered efforts by MLB, it will be a World Series shutout for the first time in over seven decades.

"It's the exclamation point," said Richard Lapchick, director of The Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport at Central Florida.

"It's been a story that's been ongoing since the late 1980s, the decline of Black baseball players," he said.

Lapchick, lead author for his group's annual reports on diversity hiring practices in sports, said Black players made up 7.2% of opening day rosters this year. That dipped from 7.6% last year and marked the lowest since study data was first collected in 1991, when 18% of MLB players were Black.

The Phillies had no Black players on their opening roster this year for the first time since 1959. Roman Quinn, a Black backup outfielder, played 23 games before being released.

Philadelphia power-hitting rookie Darick Hall made his debut in late June and played 41 games — his mother is white and his father is Black and white, and he identifies as multiracial. Hall wasn't on the Phillies' roster for any of the first three rounds this postseason and isn't expected to be on the World Series roster.

Houston lost in the World Series last year with Michael Brantley, a Black outfielder, on the roster. Brantley is out for the season this year because of a shoulder injury. Relief pitcher Josh James is also Black and on the team's 40-man roster, but he had arm surgery in early October.

MLB had 38% players of color on opening day rosters, including Altuve, Yordan Alvarez, Jeremy Peña, Yuli Gurriel, Cristian Javier and Framber Valdez of the Astros and Segura, Ranger Suárez and Seranthony Domínguez of the Phillies.

Many Afro Latino players embrace Black identity, yet perhaps not for the same reasons that Black U.S. players do. Race and skin color hold a different currency in places like the Dominican Republic, Panama, Cuba and Belize.

Betts, San Diego's Josh Bell, Cleveland's Triston McKenzie, Atlanta's Michael Harris II and the New York Yankees' Aaron Hicks were among the Black players whose teams were eliminated earlier this month in the playoffs.

Kendrick and others see signs of more on the way.

"I am optimistic. I am," he said.

Last summer, for the first time in MLB draft history, four of the first five players selected were Black.

All four, along with more than 300 big leaguers including Harris, Cincinnati's Hunter Greene, Pittsburgh's Ke'Bryan Hayes and Milwaukee's Devin Williams, took part in MLB diversity-based initiatives such as the MLB Youth Academy, DREAM Series and the Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities (RBI) program.

MLB also has pledged $150 million in the next decade to the Players Alliance, an organization of current and former players working to increase Black involvement at all levels of the sport.

Chicago White Sox executive vice president Kenny Williams is the only Black leader of baseball operations for a major league team.

"I think surely but slowly, we're going to see a pendulum shift," Kendrick said.

"The problem is we're not patient. I don't like instant grits. I'm from Georgia — I like mine slow cooked," he said.

Nola to start World Series Game 1 for Phils, Wheeler Game 2

PHILADELPHIA (AP)— The Philadelphia Phillies will start right-hander Aaron Nola in Game 1 of the World Series against the Houston Astros and last season's NL Cy Young Award runner-up Zack Wheeler in Game 2.

Game 1 of the World Series is Friday night in Houston. Game 2 is Saturday.

"Any time you've got Nola and Wheeler, two top-10 pitchers in the game right now, you feel like you have a chance to win that game," Phillies first baseman Rhys Hoskins said.

Nola is 2-1 with a 3.12 ERA and has struck out 18 in three starts this postseason. He took a perfect game into the seventh inning in the Phillies' 3-0 win over the Astros on Oct. 4 that clinched an NL wild-card spot.

Nola, who went 11-13 with a 3.25 ERA this season, struck out nine and didn't allow a baserunner until Yordan Alvarez singled with two outs in the seventh.

"You can't go wrong with who's going to take the bump out of our starters in that first game," Phillies slugger Kyle Schwarber said. "They've been so good for us the whole year."

The Astros have not lost a game since that date, going 7-0 in the playoffs. Astros manager Dusty Baker has not officially named his starters, though Justin Verlander is widely expected to start Game 1 and Framber Valdez in Game 2.

Verlander struck out 11 and tossed six shutout innings in his lone start against the Yankees in ALCS and Valdez t ossed seven scoreless innings in his only start against New York.

The 39-year-old Verlander shows no signs of slowing down and went 18-4, with an MLB-best 1.75 ERA, and 185 strikeouts this season.

"Anybody that can do that for that long, it speaks to his work ethic, it speaks to his competitive nature," Phillies manager Rob Thomson said. "Obviously, he's always had great stuff."

Wheeler is 1-1 with a 1.78 ERA and has struck out 25 and walked three in four postseason starts. He had a no-decision in Philadelphia's NL Championship Series-clinching 4-3 win over San Diego in Game 5.

Wheeler, who experienced soreness after he was smacked by a comebacker on his right leg, gets an extra day of rest.

"Any time we give those guys an extra day, we do it," Thomson said Wednesday.

Nola made his playoff debut this year and went 2-0 without allowing an earned run in 12 2/3 innings as Philadelphia swept the NL wild-card round against St. Louis and upset defending World Series champion Atlanta in the Division Series.

The 29-year-old Nola gave up six runs and seven hits in 4 2/3 innings in his Game 2 loss to San Diego in the NLCS. Thomson said the Phillies did not find evidence as they watched video that Nola tipped his pitches in San Diego.

"We didn't and we looked at it," Thomson said. "Any time that type of thing happens, we're always looking at it, we're always checking and making sure we've got everything covered. I think there was some bad execution in there as well as they were hunting fastballs."

Thomson did not reveal his starters for Games 3 and 4 but said he would stick with a four-man rotation. Left-hander Ranger Suarez could start Game 3. The Phillies used Noah Syndergaard to start a game in the NLDS and Bailey Falter started Game 4 in the NLCS.

Syndergaard allowed one run in three innings against Atlanta. Falter only retired two batters in his start.

Thomson said he wouldn't announce any roster changes until Friday.

The Astros won 19 more games than the Phillies in the regular season and are the betting favorite to win the World Series, per FanDuel.

Old B Bank banks first win

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
An Old B Bank player, right, in action during their Marianas Soccer League Fall 2022 Division B game at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Old B Bank deposited their first win of the season against WNT Developmental Team, 7-1, last Friday during the Marianas Soccer League Fall 2022 Division B game at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

The men made their way slowly through the season but have now found their groove after their first goal in the 10th minute made by Kosuke Sato. He opened up the playing field for his teammates as he completed the hat-trick and was backed up by a goal from James Garcia and two from Raphael Zapanta to bring them up, 6-0.

Meanwhile, the players of the WNT Developmental Team have yet to score as the time and ball swiftly eluded them. It was not until after Jether Yobech of Old B Bank scored their seventh and last goal that Kaithlyn Chavez scored the lone goal for her team in the 65th minute.

In the first game of the night, Hana Football Club defeated Shirley's Football Club, 3-1.

It was slow going for both teams as they struggled to find their footing, then in the 25th minute, Hana's Sang Hun Lee broke through the barrier for the first goal of the game.

The first half came and went without a single goal from Shirley's but Sean Gil managed to scope and find a break in their defenses for a goal. However, they had no more goals left in them as Scott Kim and Ace Lee added two more goals for Hana for the final score of 3-1.

Results of the Sunday, Oct. 23, games will be posted in the next editions of *Saipan Tribune*.

Retardo revival in October tourney

MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

William Retardo staked claim to Fil-Taga Golfers Association's October Ace of the Month Tournament held last Oct. 15 at the Coral Ocean Resort.

The monthly tourney actually was played in conjunction with the Saipan Pacific Lions Club and Fil-Taga Golfers Association 2nd Annual Charity Golf Tournament.

Retardo figured in a triple tie with Mike Cruz and Ed Varias, but the Pacific Islands Club Saipan chef de cuisine nosed out the two with a superior back nine.

Cruz, meanwhile, won second place after edging Varias via scorecard tiebreaker with also a lower score in the last nine holes.

All three veteran golfers fired net scores of 77.

Retardo, who hails from Quezon, Philippines, said he was surprised he played quite well despite the bad weather two Saturdays ago.

"My putting was better than usual. Despite the rain, I was able to focus for a longer period of time, and I think that's what helped me win," he said.

The 54-year-old, who dedicated his October win to his beloved family, said the rain was pouring so hard during the Fil-Taga/Lion's Club tourney that he had to change equipment.

"It was wet for the entire tournament. I had to change my gloves multiple times because they kept getting soaked. The rain was also on and off so we had to take breaks every now and then."

Retardo, who first picked up a golf club competitively 25 years ago, now joins Mike Cruz (January), Lito Mendoza (February) Dan Ganacias (March), Freddie Cataluna (April), Varias (May), Romy Cayetano (June), Jess Yumul (July), Das Krishnan (August), and Ronnie Santos (September) for the season-ending Fil-Taga Ace of Aces Tournament.

Retardo

MOC

From Page 28

tance race.

The MOC men paddlers racked up three silvers with one from the 500m sprint with a time of 2:09:16, one from the 1,500m sprint with a time of 7:46:30, and one in the 10-mile distance race with a time of 1:19:34. First place in the 500m, 1,500m, and 10-mile distance was swept by Palau's BMC team.

The men's team consisted of team captain and club president Tim Asaivao, Jose Quan, Billy Grow, Steve Beyer, Richard Sikkel, Jason Tarkong, and Dan Taitano.

The women's team included Elaine Sablan, Bonny Grow, Olive Tenorio, Ayessa Tereyama, Ashuri Pangelinan, Valentina Haberman, Vicky Takai, Shar Sablan, Pip Ball, and team manager Lori Rabe.

Of the 17-person team, Asaivao, Billy Grow, Quan, Tarkong, Elaine and Shar Sablan, and Takai were part of the CNMI national men's and women's va'a team during the 2022 Pacific Mini Games.

Asaivo told *Saipan Tribune* that "it was an overall great experience for the team. This was the first ever MOC women's team and their first time paddling together. Usually, the successful teams are the ones who have been paddling together for a while, it's a very technical sport and requires good chemistry on the canoe, so for the women to go there and take gold in the 500m sprint, silver in the 1500m sprint, and bronze in the 8-mile long-distance was a great accomplishment."

For the men's team's performance, he said "the men's team has more seasoned paddlers but only trained together for three months and changed our style of paddling and technique, so the main goal was to apply the new techniques during the competition, and to win silver in all three races was a bonus."

MOC would like to thank their families for their support as they practice three to five times a week and "our family's support and understanding of our passion for the sport has been unwavering."

Women's coach Tarkong said, "congratulations to the women's team for the first time to compete internationally and with three months of training, pulls off an incredible feat of hard work and discipline! Successfully medaling in all three events of the 500m, 1,500m, and long distance. Awesome job ladies all around! Way to represent the CNMI, we are proud of you!"

MOC thanked the following sponsors: Ace Hardware, All Star Sporting Goods, Green Flash Dive, Boarderline, Joeten Superstore, Latte Cafe, Saipan Apparel, Chokechain Athletics, Pualani Crown, Turnkey Solutions, The Athletes Foot, Safety Management Systems, The Shack, WC & Co, Tropical Instant Press, Saipan Select, Taboo, Moylan's Insurance, TSL Foundation, Pacifica Insurance, and the Office of the Governor.

"As a competitive team we understand there are things we can control such as practice, weight training and dieting but you will never make it without the support of our community and for that we are very thankful," said Asaivo.

CAROL

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take place from Nov. 2 to 6 at the Barnes Tennis Center in San Diego, Calif.

Georgia Tech returns to action at the Tennessee Fall Invite, Oct. 28-30.

Lee, meanwhile, finished runner-up in singles in the same tournament after the 16th ranked player was upset by No. 26 Lea Ma of University of Georgia

In the report from ramblinwreck.com, the first set was a back-and-forth challenge before Ma held for the first time to gain a 4-2 edge. She closed out the opener, 6-3, but Lee regrouped in the second set. At 2-all, Ma won the next two games for a 4-2 advantage before Lee rallied back to knot the set at 4-4. Lee went up a break at 5-4 and held serve to even the match at one set apiece with a 6-4 win.

However, fatigue hit Lee in the third set, who was playing her 10th and 11th matches in four days as Ma took a 6-0 final set to claim the title.

Lee and Ma will both advance to the ITA National Fall Championships in singles in November by reaching the championship match.

GTC

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other one, this time opposite GTC-2, 24-3.

In Pool B, Siah Casil and Maleai Saures combined for 10 of GTC-1's points in their close victory over KOB-2 with the former's last basket of the game giving the Binadus the win. Saures then made 10 points in their demolition of SVC-1 and drew help from Sidro Kania, who also tallied 8 markers.

In Pool A, WSR-1 leaned on the 17 points of Joshua Lizama to crush GTC-2, while Logan Daniel starred in KOB-1's triumph over SIS-1 after posting 12 points. Maria Enriquez led all scorers in the opener, as her 21 points powered GES-2 to a 27-point win over SIS-1. Against GTC-2, Enriquez also registered double figures in scoring with her 12 points.

In other results in the opening game, GES-1 defeated SIS-2, 16-6. Casmiro Cosmeses misfired in the entire first half for GES-1, but finished strong, as he made the Mallards' last three baskets in the game.

Meanwhile, matches in the co-ed elementary division will resume this Saturday.

Rota's Sinapalo ES and Grace Christian Academy will have their season debut this weekend as they collide in the 8:30am match on the north court. Also scheduled on the north end side are the following games: SVC-2 vs SIS-1; GTC-2 vs KOB-1; Kagman ES vs Tinian ES; WSR-1 vs GES-2; and KAG vs Brilliant Star School.

On the south court, WSR-2 will open the action this weekend when it faces SVC-1, while the remaining matches will have GES-1 battling KOB-2, Tinian meeting GCA, Sinapalo squaring off against BSS, and SIS-2 challenging GTC-1.

Jokic, Nuggets keep Lakers winless with 110-99 victory

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Sports

Old B Bank banks first win

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Carol, partner justify top ranking in doubles

MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The CNMI's Carol Lee and Kate Sharabura won the doubles championship of the ITA Southeast Regional held earlier this month at the Ken Byers Tennis Complex in Atlanta, Georgia.

The top-ranked doubles team from Georgia Tech defeated University of Florida's Alicia Dudeney and Carly Briggs, 6-4, 6-2, to win the title.

"Last year my doubles partner and I lost in the first round at this same tournament. So I'm very proud of my partner and I for overcoming the challenges we have been going through. Being No. 1 in the nation boosted our confidence and was even more hungry for more. I dedicate this achievement to my family the most, my teammates, my friends, and my coaches," said Lee in a social media message to *Saipan Tribune*.

Yellow Jackets women's tennis team coach Rodney Harmon thanked Lee and Sharabura for following his instructions.

"Stay aggressive! Cover the middle! Move or fake on every first serve," were some of his tips to the highly touted doubles pair.

According to ramblinwreck.com, the doubles championship was knotted at 3-3 in the opening set before Lee and Sharabura broke to take a 4-3 edge. Sharabura then held serve for 5-3. Florida made it 5-4 before Lee served out the set, 6-4, to give Georgia Tech the advantage.

Lee and Sharabura then shut the door on Dudeney and Briggs by jumping out to a 4-0 lead in the second set before the Florida pair got on the scoreboard at 4-1. The teams traded the next two games before Sharabura served out the win, 6-4, 6-2.

With the victory, Lee and Sharabura also secured a spot in the ITA National Fall Championships, which will

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Georgia Tech doubles teammates Carol Lee, left, and Kate Sharabura show off their first place plaques after topping the ITA Southeast Regional held earlier this month at the Ken Byers Tennis Complex in Atlanta, Georgia.

MOC golden in Micro Cup's 1,500m sprint

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Marianas Outrigger Club, led by president and team captain Tim Asaivao, displays all six trophies they won in the 22nd Micronesia Cup Canoe Race at the closing ceremony at the Peleliu Club.

By LEIGH GASES
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CORRESPONDENT

The Marianas Outrigger Club took home one gold, four silver, and one bronze medal in the recently concluded 22nd Micronesia Cup Canoe Race in Koror, Palau held from Oct. 21 to Oct. 23.

The club's women paddlers sprinted into gold in the 1,500m sprint with a time of 8:50:66, followed by Guam's Napu OCC with a time of 8:57:72, then Palau's FaebDori Club with time of 8:59:55, and Guam's Team Haggan with a time of 9:13:83.

The women then claimed silver in the 500m sprint with a time of 2:37:67. FaebDori won gold with a time of 2:37:00; third place went to Napu OCC with a time 2:44:77; and fourth place went to Guam's Tatao Gailade with a time of 2:48:23.

The MOC women then completed their collection of medals with a bronze in the eight-mile dis-

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GTC-1 takes early lead; WSR-1, Kobler-1 unbeaten

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School-1 player takes a look at the basket before pulling up for a shot during their game against San Vicente ES-2 in the co-ed elementary division of the IT&E Interscholastic Basketball League 2022-2023 Season last Saturday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School-1, William S. Reyes ES-1, Garapan ES-2, and Koblerville ES-1 stood out in the opening week of the co-ed elementary division of the IT&E Interscholastic Basketball League 2022-2023 Season held last Saturday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

GTC-1 earned a 2-0 mark in the kickoff for the early lead in Pool B, while WSR-1, GES-2, and KOB-1 are sharing the top spot in Pool A as they also recorded 2-0 slates.

GTC-1 nosed out KOB-2 in its first match, 13-11, and then routed San Vicente 1, 22-0, for the perfect start.

WSR-1 cruised to a 27-4 win over GTC-2 in its season debut in Pool A and got a free victory over SVC-2 (forfeit) in its second assignment. KOB-1 was handed the outright win, too, due to a no-show from SVC-2 and improved to a 2-0 record following an 18-0 domination of Saipan International School 1. Still in Pool A, Garapan ES-2 hammered SIS-1, 39-2, and then followed up the lopsided win with an-

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